

Hafa Adai!

'Dormant quarries need to be revisited to reclaim land use.' **PAGE 3**  
Coast Guard completes two-day search and rescue training. **PAGE 6**

\$1

# Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XXXII, Issue No. 170

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FRIDAY AUGUST 26, 2022

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## \$300 utility credit for August out

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. said as of yesterday utility stimulus credit worth \$300 for the month of August had already been uploaded to approximately 12,000 eligible residential accounts.

CUC said the \$300 utility stimulus credit in August will continue in September and October 2022.

CUC executive director Gary Camacho said he is grateful to the Governor's Office and the Department of Fi-

See \$300 on Page 4

## Manglona: \$109.7M budget bill for FY 2023

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**  
ferdie\_delatorre@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

House of Representatives  
Ways and Means Committee

» **\$162.4M in combined general, ARPA funds**



Manglona

chair Rep. Donald M. Manglona (Ind-Rota) introduced Wednesday a budget bill to appropriate \$109.7 million out of \$150.4 million in total budgetary resources, and \$52.6

million from the American Rescue Plan Act funds, for the CNMI government operations in Fiscal Year 2023.

With \$52,629,343 from ARPA funds and \$109,782,265 from general local funds, the total combined appropriated funds is \$162.4 million. See **MANGLONA** on Page 4

## Women Entrepreneurs Project kick-starts 2nd cohort



CHRYSTAL MARINO

CNMI Small Business Development Center network director Nadine Deleon Guererro during her presentation at the Women's Entrepreneurs Project cohort on Capital Hill last Wednesday.

### COMMUNITY VULNERABILITY

#### LEGEND:

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- Blue
- Green: Safest

Source: Office of the Governor

By **CHRYSTAL MARINO**  
chrystal\_marino@saipantribune.com  
CORRESPONDENT

A group of entrepreneurs and aspiring business owners, several interested in availing BOOST funds, gathered together for the kick-off session of the Women Entrepreneurs Project's second cohort last Wednesday on Capitol Hill.

The kick-off session was joined by 32 individuals, not including the hosting CNMI

Women's Association and CNMI Small Business Development Center members present. The project's stance, mission, and background were presented and was followed by a guide on how applicants may apply for BOOST and the requirements needed for the application. After the discussion, assistance in business plans and BOOST requirements were administered to participants.

The cohort session gathered a mix of individuals—men and women—of different ethnic backgrounds interested in building a business in the CNMI. The Women's Entrepreneur Project's first cohort began in June 2022 and is currently hosted through the partnership of CWA and the SBDC. The project is focused on helping women entrepreneurs start their own

See **WOMEN** on Page 4

## 4-H Marianas Camp Maga'lahi summer camp expanding to include more topics and youth activities

### TOGETHER, WE CAN

By **AMY RAYN SOLIMAN**  
Special to the Saipan Tribune

During her 2021-2022 term, Amy Ryan was the 4-H Saipan Youth Council Secretary and the 4-H Marianas Productions lead director. Amy has been involved with the 4-H Marianas since she was a junior in high school because it is the only nonprofit organization that serves the youth on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota. Amy is currently a sophomore at Northern Marianas College where she is studying to be a social worker.



In early August, the 4-H Marianas concluded its annual 4-H Camp Maga'lahi on Rota, Tinian, and Saipan. The 4-H Camp Maga'lahi is a week-long day camp that teaches children about indigenous culture, agriculture, marine biology, and other topics. We had roughly 500 campers sign up this year, but we were only able to gather 340



See **TOGETHER** on Page 4

## INSIDE



### BUSINESS

More than 40 million Americans could see their student loan debt reduced — and in many cases eliminated.

PAGE 13



### WORLD

Russian forces launched a rocket attack that killed 22 on a Ukrainian train station on the embattled country's Independence Day.

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### LIFE & STYLE

Serena Williams and Meghan recount challenges they've experienced as working mothers.

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## Local

### Bill seeks to establish veterans' preference employment provision

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**  
ferdie\_delatorre@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

Rep. Vicente C. Camacho (D-Saipan) has introduced a bill that will establish a veterans' preference employment provision for the CNMI government.

Camacho, who chairs the House of Representatives Federal & Foreign Affairs Committee, is expected to formally introduce his legislation, H.B. 22-112, during a House session tomorrow, Saturday.

Camacho stated in the bill that the CNMI is home to veterans who have honorably served the country.

He said these heroic men and women, along with their families, have endured the hardships that come with military service, such as serving in times of war.

The lawmaker said as a token of the CNMI's immeasurable gratitude, it is highly appropriate for the government to provide employment preference and opportunities to these deserving veterans and their

widows or widowers.

Camacho said it is incumbent on the government to assist veterans with service-connected permanent or total disabilities, and to exercise such permissive preference when appropriate.

He said U.S. federal law provides for veterans' employment preference.

Camacho said certain states and territories, such as Guam, Florida, California, and others, have exercised their own forms of veterans' preference.

He said cognizant of such efforts by

the different states and territories, it is imperative that the CNMI implement its own form of veterans' preference.

The bill seeks to amend Title I, Division 8 of the Commonwealth Code by establishing such veterans' preference employment provision.

Under the legislation, the Office of Personnel Management shall promulgate regulations to implement veterans' preference in examination for the civil service for preference-eligible veterans and family members.



Camacho

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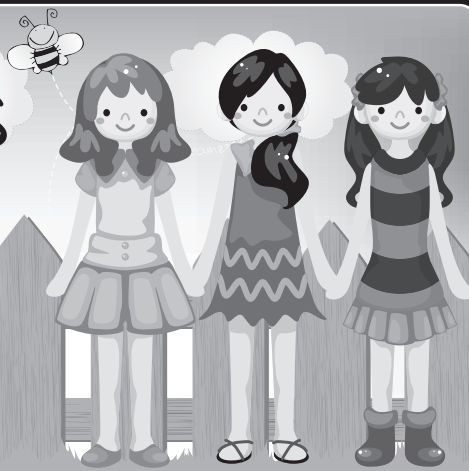
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## 'Dormant quarries need to be revisited to reclaim land use'

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**  
ferdie\_delatorre@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

Sen. Edith E. DeLeon Guerrero (D-Saipan) said yesterday that there are several open and dormant quarries that she feels are very important to revisit and plan on how to reclaim their land use for other worthy economic initiatives.

"If you notice, whether you're flying off or into the CNMI, a huge open and dormant quarry up at Kannat Tabla is an eyesore which you can also see when you stand at the Northern tip of Tinian," said DeLeon Guerrero in response to *Saipan Tribune's* request for comments to her bill that deals with dormant quarries.

The senator said other countries' ideas that have reclaimed their dormant quarries should be looked at that could serve useful and doable for the Commonwealth.

DeLeon Guerrero is the author of Senate Bill 22-52 that would provide for quarrying controls and reclamation plans in the Commonwealth.

The bill's purpose is to revitalize lands that are affected by quarrying in the CNMI by ensuring that the Department of Public Lands includes reclamation and post-depletion plans in quarry leases.

Senators unanimously passed Senate Bill 22-52 in the form of SD1. The bill is now with the House of Representatives for action.

Quarries in the CNMI are public lands leased to private companies for sand and gravel extraction.

DeLeon Guerrero stated in the bill that after the quarry is closed because the area is no longer suitable to continue quarry operations, the location is left with a huge hole.

According to a standing committee report of the Senate Committee on Resources, Economic Development and Programs that the Senate adopted, DPL disclosed that there are currently four dormant quarry sites—two on Saipan, and one each on Tinian and Rota.

Sen. Justo S. Quitugua (R-Saipan), who chairs the Sen-

ate Committee on Resources, Economic Development and Programs, said DPL shared that they are looking into addressing the proper fencing of these four areas.

DPL shared that there is no interest, at this time, to operate the dormant quarry sites.

DeLeon Guerrero stated in the bill that while quarrying may result in negative impacts, the necessity of quarrying is undeniable.

DeLeon Guerrero said in order to remedy the negative effects of quarrying, the Commonwealth must use the resource-depleted spaces for other uses once the quarry ceases operation.

She said the conversion to other uses, however, is not possible because neither reclamation plans nor post-depletion plans exist.

The senator said the public land leases for quarry operations lack provisions pertaining to reclamation or post-depletion requirements.

She underscored the need for a solution for the existing abandoned, resource-depleted quarries and to ensure that DPL include reclamation and post-depletion plans in the quarry leases.

Under the bill, all operators and applicants for a new permit or permit renewal shall be registered with U.S. Mining and Safety Health Administration (MSHA) and provide their mine registration number on their application.

All operators and applicants for a new permit or permit renewal shall comply with all MSHA regulations with respect to quarries.

All operators shall erect cautionary signage and properly built fencing around their quarry and facilities to project the safety of the citizens and the environment around the vicinity.

DPS shall erect cautionary signage and properly built fencing around abandoned and dormant quarries located on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota.

The quarrying and reclamation plan that is required to be completed by a person approved by DPL shall include

description and/or illustration of how the site will be reclaimed at the end of operation to minimize future danger to public safety and the environment.

The person shall provide, among other information, projected final contours and grading, access controls, landscaping plan, and storm water controls for post operation.

The operation shall commence the reclamation of the incremental area of land disturbed by the operator immediately after the completion of all quarrying of that area

or after the quarry is deemed abandoned in accordance with the approved quarrying and reclamation plan.

DPL may require a bond or other financial requirement from an operator to ensure that mitigation and reclamation efforts will be complied with when closing a quarry or completion of a lease agreement with DPL.

According to the Senate's standing committee report, J.G. Sablan Rock Quarry Inc. acknowledged that only recently MSHA began overseeing the safety standards of quarries operating in the Commonwealth.

However, J.G. Sablan Rock Quarry said, during the initial

phases of MSHA's oversight, many quarries already had existing high walls surrounding the quarried sites, to which MSHA has already implemented safety standards to address this matter.

Construction Materials and Supply recommended, among other things, to require all quarries operating on both public and private lands be subjected to the same regulations, allow collaboration between DPL and quarry operators when developing reclamation plans, and provide quarry operators the flexibility to revise their reclamation activities with the actual condition of the quarry field.

Hawaiian Rock Products Saipan recommended the installation of permanent signage to safeguard the community from potential harm when approaching a cliff line created from the quarry operations.

USA Fanter Corp. Ltd. recommended that quarry operators that are licensed to operate be exempt to the proposed provisions based on their years of operations in the CNMI.

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## FBI serves subpoena to DPL Secretary Igisomar, questions Rep. Yumul

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**  
ferdie\_delatorre@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

Department of Public Lands Secretary Sixto K. Igisomar said yesterday that Federal Bureau of Investigation agents served him with a subpoena to testify before a federal grand jury, while Rep. Ralph N. Yumul (R-Saipan) also disclosed that an FBI agent

came to his office and questioned him basically about his role in the introduction and passage of Saipan's casino law.

In response to *Saipan Tribune's* inquiries, Igisomar in an email said FBI agents went to his office at DPL last Tuesday, Aug. 16, and served him with a subpoena.

Igisomar said the subpoena commanded him to appear before a fed-

eral grand jury and testify.

"I do not know what they are looking for. They mainly asked my official government positions that I have held today and in the past," the DPL secretary said.

He said he can't share nor say more than he should at this time.

"Your understanding is greatly appreciated," Igisomar said.

Igisomar used to serve as secretary

of the Department of Commerce. As Commerce secretary, he served as chairman of the Commonwealth Lottery Commission.

CLC granted an exclusive license casino to Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC in 2014.

Before his appointment as DPL secretary, Igisomar served as Saipan senator in the 19th and 20th

Legislature.

In response to *Saipan Tribune's* separate inquiries, Yumul said yesterday that an FBI agent and an Office of the Public Auditor staff visited his office Tuesday, last week.

A longer version of this story is available at [www.saipantribune.com](http://www.saipantribune.com)

## Court denies motion to disqualify Torres' lawyers

By **KIMBERLY B. ESMORES**  
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REPORTER

Judge Pro Tem Alberto Tolentino has denied the prosecution's motion to disqualify two of four of Gov. Ralph DLG Torres' lawyers in the lawsuit filed by the Office of the Attorney General against Torres over his alleged misconduct in office.

Last Tuesday, Tolentino issued an order denying the disqualification of attorneys Viola Alepuyo and Anthony Aguon, two of Torres' four lawyers representing him in the criminal case filed by the OAG.

According to the judge, he sim-

ply found that disqualification of attorneys Alepuyo and Aguon is not warranted.

"The court acknowledges the Commonwealth's notice of potential conflict as to Alepuyo and Aguon. The court has conducted an inquiry into said conflicts of interests and finds that disqualification of attorneys Alepuyo and Aguon is not warranted, as the informed consent and written waivers of conflict of interests between attorneys Alepuyo and Aguon, defendant, and witnesses Frances M. Dela Cruz and Jomalyn Gelacio were obtained and accepted by the court," the judge ordered.

In his order, Tolentino mentions that waivers of conflict of interest between attorneys Alepuyo and Aguon, Torres, and witnesses Dela Cruz and Gelacio were executed on May 24, 2022, after the initial hearing of this case. Based on the record, the court finds that Dela Cruz and Gelacio are former clients of attorneys Alepuyo and Aguon, who were represented during the prior JGO hearings, which involved matters substantially similar to this case.

A longer version of this story is available at [www.saipantribune.com](http://www.saipantribune.com)

## WOMEN

From Page 1

businesses, but the sessions, and services are made available to both men and women.

The first session's presenters were CNMI SBDC network director Nadine C. Deleon Guerrero and CNMI associate network director Mercilynn K. Palec.

When discussing BOOST with participants, Deleon Guererro cleared up several public speculations saying that she was not on the BOOST funding selection committee "I am not on the selection committee for that. But I am here to share information of what I do know about the program." Deleon Guererro also noted that the \$6-\$7-million grant is focused on help-

ing kick-start small business whose operations have either suffered from the COVID-19 pandemic or were unable to open as planned because of the pandemic.

Deleon Guererro also cleared the air and stated that the selection made for the BOOST funding was not based on a first-come, first-serve basis, but the opportunity for everyone to submit their request was open until Sept. 18, 2022, which she stated that portal will close, and the selected committee will begin going through the submitted letters/applications, and grading the submissions.

Deleon Guererro also mentioned several steps participants would take to make a better grading, adding that "The most reasonable requests are the ones that will be entertained."

Deleon Guererro noted that if \$5 million was requested from one person, it was not likely to be granted.

Questions on whether or not business licenses, business owner citizenship status, and former loans would play a factor for BOOST funding consideration were also answered. Both Deleon Guererro and Palec made their services available to participants who needed guidance in the writing or submission of their BOOST applications/letters.

The cohort sessions will continue to be held every Wednesday from 2pm to 5pm and will conclude on Sept. 21, 2022, with each session designated on helping interested individuals learn and practice funding streams and financial statements, marketing, growing and sustaining a business, and business pitch.

## MANGLONA

From Page 1

\$162,411,608.

In Fiscal Year 2022, the combined general and ARPA funds appropriated was \$278.3 million.

Pursuant to House Concurrent Resolution No. 22-2, SD1, the total estimated revenues and resources approved and identified for FY 2023 is \$150,415,492.

According to Manglona's House Bill 22-116, which was co-sponsored by several other representatives, for the general fund, minus the money for debt servicing, this leaves the government \$104,374,369 in total local revenue and resources available for appropriation in fiscal year 2023. Including the \$5,407,896 budget for the Department of Public Lands, the grand total revenue available for appropriation is \$109,782,265.

The budget bill includes three attachments—Schedule A general local funds, Schedule B ARPA funds, and Schedule C combined general

local funds and ARPA funds.

For the Judiciary Branch and Legislative Branch, \$7,846,992 and \$8,965,599 are appropriated from general funds, respectively. No ARPA funds were appropriated.

For the Executive Branch, \$19,998,853 is appropriated from general funds and \$33,342,696 from the ARPA funds, for a total of \$53,341,549.

Rota is appropriated \$1,823,109 from general funds and \$6,561,086 from ARPA, for a total of \$8,384,195.

For Tinian and Aguiguan \$1,689,584 is appropriated from general funds and 5,872,308 from ARPA, for a total of \$7,561,892.

For Saipan Mayor's Office, Saipan Municipal Council, and Northern Islands Mayor's Office, \$1,015,733 is the total appropriation from general funds, and \$1,904,950 from ARPA, for combined total of \$2,920,683.

For board and commissions, \$373,317 is appropriated from general funds and \$1,184,458 from ARPA funds, for a combined total of \$1,557,775.

For independent programs,

\$30,157,893 is appropriated from general funds and \$3,763,845 from ARPA funds for a combined total of \$33,921,738.

For other programs (transfers out to agencies) \$32,503,290 is appropriated from general funds and none from ARPA.

DPL would get its budget from its \$5,407,895 revenues.

Autonomous agencies have a total budget of \$261,800,007.

Among the highlights of the bill is that for fiscal year 2023, except as provided in the statute, all public corporations and autonomous government agencies are mandated to pay the 1% Public Auditor's Fee.

The secretary of Finance shall collect and withhold this fee and deposit the amounts in a special account established by the secretary, separate from the general fund. The Public Auditor shall manage this special account.

A longer version of this story is available at [www.saipantribune.com](http://www.saipantribune.com)

## \$300

From Page 1

nance for providing such relief to its customers since the high cost of fuel has significantly impacted the people of the CNMI.

"The timing of the relief is even moreover felt when the priority of most households at this time is getting the kids situated back to school," he said.

CUC earlier said that the \$900 utility stimulus credit covering the three months was through the efforts of Gov. Ralph DLG Torres in coordination with the Department of Finance and was made to give residential power consumers some relief to the

current fuel crisis.

CUC leadership continues to look for additional solutions for long term relief including educating customers on energy conservation to help reduce electric bills, replacing existing engines with more efficient technology, and advancing CUC's renewable energy initiative for a more sustainable CNMI.

Customers still struggling with their bills are encouraged to visit one of the CUC Customer Centers on Saipan, Rota, and Tinian where representatives are available for consultation and assistance. For assistance over the phone, call (670) 664-4282 to speak with a CUC representative. (*Saipan Tribune*)

## TOGETHER

From Page 1

participants, the highest turnout in the history of the camp.

Planning for the 4-H Camp Maga'lahi can be overwhelming, and we have already started planning for next year's camp. We intend to expand the program to four weeks rather than two allowing us to accommodate more participants. It will also be more distinctive because campers will be allowed to choose programs they want to join. For example, if a camper is more interested in agriculture, they can attend only the agriculture week.

In my experience as a co-lead for the house of Gadao last summer, I was able to watch the campers progressively develop skills they never knew they had. I've watched campers go from being shy to being social and gaining leadership skills as they go. I had so much fun being a co-lead and was awarded the good character award known as the Magas Award and the Matua Award that's given for outstanding leadership.

I have been in the 4-H Marianas Club for two years now and have participated in six clubs, such as the 4-H Camp Maga'lahi, the 4-H Teen Leaders Club, and others. Being in 4-H, I can work closely with people who are passionate and dedicated to serving the community and making a better place for the CNMI youth. As I continued to be more active in 4-H, I've developed a wide range of life skills such as teamwork, problem-solving, planning/organizing, production, and other marketable skills.

As a team lead, I was able to learn to be a more disciplined, responsible, and independent thinker when it came to tackling problems and challenges. I strongly encourage our youth to join 4-H Marianas because it is an excellent program for those seeking guidance in their personal and professional lives.

### Marianas School Pride

In April 2022, the Governor's Coun-

cil of Economic Advisers (GCEA) distributed \$15,000 in Education Tax Credits and donated goods worth \$3,000 to schools that participated in the Marianas Village Pride (MVP) Campaign activities. This year, GCEA intends to elevate this year's activities through the Marianas School Pride. This is a great opportunity for our public and private schools to be involved and give back to our community. Something as simple as painting a school curb gives you a sense of ownership and motivates you to keep it clean.

In the 4-H Marianas, our objective is to empower youth to be responsible, caring, and contributing leaders who make a positive difference in the world around them. We encourage our 4-Hers to give back and get involved in community projects. Through our partnership with GCEA, the Saipan 4-Hers painted the Gualo Rai bus stop as part of the Bus Stop Beautification through the MVP Campaign. In Rota, the Rota 4-Hers completed the Sinapalo Bus Stop as part of the Bus Stop Beautification as well.

Initiatives like this will give our youths a sense of ownership on and off campus. I highly recommend our youth get behind these initiatives. Not only do you get incentives, but you learn lifelong skills that no one can take from you. To our 4-H Ayuyus, 4-H Dolphins, 4-H Mantas, 4-H Knights, and our 4-Hers on Rota and Tinian, I highly encourage you to take the lead in these initiatives to make your campus a better place. Take ownership in leading and teaching our youth the importance of beautifying their respective campuses. I look forward to seeing all 4-Hers getting involved in GCEA's Marianas School Pride for the betterment of our campus community. Together, We Can!

For more information, visit the GCEA at [cnmieconomy.com](http://cnmieconomy.com), on Facebook and Instagram (@cnmigov.economy), or contact them at [gceacnmi@gmail.com](mailto:gceacnmi@gmail.com).







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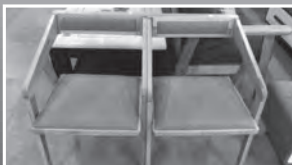
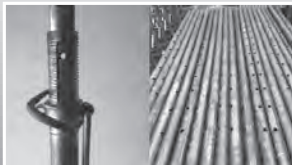
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# Coast Guard completes two-day search and rescue training

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES  
kimberly\_esmores@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

The U.S. Coast Guard, in collaboration with various government agencies, completed a two-day search and rescue exercise, an exercise that hasn't been done in the CNMI since 2019.

Last Wednesday, the U.S. Coast Guard and CNMI partners concluded their two-day training exercise with a hands-on simulation of a capsized kayak off Tanapag Harbor.

In an interview, Lt. Edward Oingerang, lieutenant junior grade with Coast Guard sector Guam, said the two-day training turned out great.

"It was an amazing training event. We did a tabletop exercise for basic search and rescue which consisted of training for search patterns, how we determine search areas, and basic navigation rules. The most important part of this training is the search and rescue and team collaboration from all our organizations. We are super small out here, especially in terms of resources, and we are very far away from additional resources. The best thing for us to do is collaborate and work with one another in our search and rescues so that way we can have the best-case possible outcome," he said.



KIMBERLY B. ESMORES

Various government agencies who participated in the U.S. Coast Guard's two-day search and rescue training pose for a photo following the simulation of a real life search and rescue mission at the Smiling Cove Marina.

"The training was good. It's nice to get everyone out there together, get them talking with one another, communicating with one another, building a strong response relationship. It's also nice to have them get familiarized with how the Coast Guard conducts search and rescue missions, and for us to also familiarize ourselves on how search and rescues are done here so that way we can have more effective searches in the future," Oingerang added.

Meanwhile, individuals who participated in the

training also shared their experiences and the importance of these kinds of trainings for their particular roles in the community, following the conclusion of the exercise yesterday.

According to Lt. Abraham Quitugua, of the Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services Search and Rescue division, for DFEMS personnel the training is an important refresher.

"We took this training back in 2019. We did some search patterns that Coast Guard provided. Pretty much what we're

doing with the Coast Guard is different types of search patterns based on what they use when searching for missing vessels or distressed swimmers. It's important to have these kind of training as we are first responders. We are the first to respond to search and rescue calls so having this kind of knowledge is good for us," he said.

Lt. Kimo Rogopes, of the Commonwealth Ports Authority Harbor Patrol Division, stated that in the real world, you never know when we're going to be out there conducting a search and rescue so it's important to have trainings such as these as information from these training will serve detrimentally useful for those circumstances.

"It's been a while since we had this training. The last training we had like this was back in 2019. It's a good thing that

the Coast Guard came back and refreshed us with these important search patterns. Realistically, we're a supporting agency. But when our other responding agency partners need assistance, it's good to have this kind of training so we can be ready," he said.

Mark Manaluz, of the Division of Customs Maritime Enforcement Unit, stated that this training helps their division in terms of assisting their fellow responding agencies, and also learn important skills that can be used while intercepting out at sea if need be.

"This training is really good for us so we can work together with other agencies. Some of the exercise include throwing out a buoy and we did search patterns on finding the buoy. For the division, this kind of training will be useful as we can now board and operate search and rescue boats and intercept illegal substances coming in," he said.

The U.S. Coast Guard and CNMI partners conducted the search and rescue exercise on Saipan from Tuesday, Aug. 23 to Wednesday, Aug. 24.

Invited agencies include the Department of Public Safety, Department of Fish and Wildlife, Division of Environmental Quality-Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality, Homeland Security and Emergency management, Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services, Commonwealth Port Authority, Customs and Biosecurity, and other local officials and representatives.



## COMMONWEALTH UTILITIES CORPORATION OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



### INVITATION FOR BIDS CUC-IFB-22-032

## SAN ANTONIO WATERLINE REPLACEMENT PROJECT

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms for the Construction of San Antonio Waterline Replacement in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The project consists, in general installation of a new main waterline and lateral service line; connection to the existing waterline; relocation of water meters from private property to right-of-way; installation of gate valve assembly, air release valves, fire hydrant assembly, flush hydrants; existing lateral service tap relocation; restoration of existing asphalt concrete road; and other related work. The work shall be done in accordance with the Project Plans and Specifications and without disruption to the daily operation of the water system.

*This project is funded by a grant from the United States of Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA). The award of this project is contingent upon receipt of the approval for project award from USEPA.*

CUC requires the Project to be completed in **365 calendar days** from date of award of contract.

Prospective Bidders for this IFB must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The Bid Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of \$200.00 (non-refundable) for one IFB package set.

A Pre-Bid Conference followed by a Site Visit is scheduled on **August 25, 2022 at 10:00 AM (ChST)** at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room No.17, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building.

**One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies** must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC-IFB-22-032, San Antonio Water Line Replacement Project", to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on September 15, 2022**, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered. Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bidders are required to complete all Bid Forms. Bidders may supplement the form as appropriate. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission. **Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered.**

All bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract.

A Bid Guarantee of fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The bid guarantee may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. A Payment Bond of one hundred (100%) percent and a Performance Bond of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidder. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.

All bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All questions or request for clarification regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on August 26, 2022** to Mr. Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator, via email at [manny.sablan@cucgov.org](mailto:manny.sablan@cucgov.org) with a copy to Ms. Alley Reyes, Project Engineer - via email at [alley.reyes@cucgov.org](mailto:alley.reyes@cucgov.org) and Ms. Marcela Tenorio, Procurement & Supply, Purchasing Technician Senior - via email at [marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org](mailto:marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org).

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waive any imperfection in the bid proposal in the best interest of the government. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

GARY CAMACHO  
Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN  
Purchasing Administrator

**Wanted: Parts / Service counter person, must have knowledge of general heavy equipment parts. 12.00 to 15.00 dollars.**

**Go to [Hawthornehiring.com](http://Hawthornehiring.com) to apply.**

**Senior Auditor (Assurance Senior) (1113541), Ernst & Young (CNMI) Inc., Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands. Implement planned audit procedures and programs for substantial sections of an audit to enable the firm to render an opinion on the financial statements of our clients. Any suitable combination of experience of education, training, or experience is acceptable. For complete job description, list of requirements, and to apply online, go to: [ey.com/en\\_us/careers](http://ey.com/en_us/careers) and click on "Find jobs" (Job # - 1113541).**



# 29 child care providers attend ECERS-3 training



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Child care providers throughout Saipan and Tinian recently attended a training series on The Early Childhood Environmental Rating Scale, Third Edition (ECERS-3).

A total of 29 child care providers throughout Saipan and Tinian attended a training series on The Early Childhood Environmental Rating Scale, Third Edition (ECERS-3), conducted by Evergreen Learning coach Erlaine DLG. Evangelista at Kagman Community Center last Aug. 6 and 13 and remotely on Aug. 20. Each training session lasted around three to four hours each.

ECERS-3 is a version from the Environmental Rating Scale (ERS) that assesses early childhood program quality in child care centers that take care of children in the preschool age range of 3 through 5 years old (before Kindergarten). Under Reach Higher, CNMI, the CNMI's version of the Quality Rating and Improvement System (QRIS) ECERS-3, along with its other versions (ITERS-3, SACERS-U) specific to children's age level, are implemented within the standards. Through these set of rating scales (ITERS-3, ECERS-3, SACERS-U), assessors can determine an early child care's quality rating in relation to health and safety practices, interactions, schedules, routines, room set up, accessible age-appropriate materials, etc. The scale is used all over the world, and not just the United States. In addition, it is used across different ages, poverty levels, and cultures. The ERS has been proven to serve its exact purpose in the specific study and provides consistent or dependable results.

During the training, child care providers learned how to read and interpret the ECERS-3 rating scale, along with scores, and complete their own self-assessment and Quality Improvement Plan (QIP). The QIP document is a tool used that helps providers set in place specific tasks to accomplish goals related to

improving their quality in caring for children. ECERS-3 self-assessment and the Quality Improvement Plan documents are all accounted for under Star 1 of

Reach Higher, CNMI.

For more information on Reach Higher, CNMI (QRIS), please visit <http://www.cnmiclp.gov.mp>. (PR)

**PROCUREMENT SERVICES  
CNMI GOVERNMENT**

**INVITATION TO BID**  
**ITB NO.: ITB22-DPL/RT-42200148**  
 SUBMISSION DATE: SEPTEMBER 19, 2022 TIME: 9:00 A.M.

**“DPL’S ROTA DISTRICT OFFICE SPACE RENTAL”**

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED ON THE MUNIS VENDOR SELF SERVICE PORTAL (<https://selfservice.dof.gov.mp/vss/>) OR AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES, LOCATED AT HORIGUCHI BLDG, GROUND FLOOR, 123 KOPPA DI ORU & BEACH ROAD, GARAPAN, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

**THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.**

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ SIXTO K. IGISOMAR  
SECRETARY OF DPL

/S/ FRANCISCO C. AGUON  
DIRECTOR, P.S.

**DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES  
CNMI GOVERNMENT**

**INVITATION TO BID**  
**ITB NO.: RFP22-OPD-42200156**  
 SUBMISSION DATE: SEPTEMBER 26, 2022 TIME: 10:00 A.M.

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AND HOSPITALS OF THE CNMI”**

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES, LOCATED AT THE HORIGUCHI BLDG, GROUND FLOOR, 123 KOPPA DI ORU & BEACH ROAD, GARAPAN, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS OR VIA EMAIL TO [moira.igleacias@opd.gov.mp](mailto:moira.igleacias@opd.gov.mp).

**\*\*FOR YOUR SAFETY & OURS: ALL INTERESTED INDIVIDUALS ARE REQUIRED TO USE A FACE MASK & ARE REQUIRED TO REGISTER UPON ENTRY\*\***

**QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS ITB ARE DUE ON SEPTEMBER 12, 2022, CLOSE OF BUSINESS AND CAN BE MADE TO PETER DRESSLAR, VIA E-MAIL AT [peter.dresslar@opd.gov.mp](mailto:peter.dresslar@opd.gov.mp).**

**THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY**

THE GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS AND PROPOSALS OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ A.KODEP OGUMORO-ULUDONG  
DIRECTOR, OPD

/S/ FRANCISCO C. AGUON  
ACTING DIRECTOR, PS



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The training was conducted by Evergreen Learning coach Erlaine DLG. Evangelista at Kagman Community Center last Aug. 6 and 13 and remotely on Aug. 20.

## PROPERTY FOR SALE



### LOT NO. 002 G 300

### NOTICE OF AUCTION & SALE

**PLEASE TAKE NOTICE** that the undersigned counsel, Attorney Robert T. Torres (the auctioneer or his designee), for and on behalf of the Northern Mariana Islands Retirement Fund, will sell at auction, to the highest bidder, on September 15, 2022, at 10:00 a.m., at the Law Office of Robert T. Torres, Plata Drive, Chalan Kiya, Saipan, the premises and real estate, lying and being on Alageta Road, Kagman III, Saipan Municipality, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, described further as follows:

**Lot No. 002 G 300, containing an area of 929 square meters, more or less, as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 002 G 07, the original of which was recorded on May 14, 1990 as Document No. 90-1904 at the Commonwealth Recorder's Office, Saipan, CNMI.**

#### Terms and Conditions of Sale.

1. **Rights and Duties of Auctioneer.** Consistent with the custom and usage and applicable laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands governing auction sales with reserve, the auctioneer or his designee shall have the following rights and duties conducting the auction sale:

- withdraw the property listed for sale in the public announcement before the sale or before a bid for such property is accepted;
- to adjourn the sale without notice at any time before any specific property is sold, without incurring any liability whatsoever there; and
- to reject any and all bids.

2. **Minimum Bid.** Minimum bid for the sale of Lot No. 002 G 300 is One Hundred Twenty Thousand Four Hundred Fifty Dollars and 00/100 (US \$120,450.00). All bids shall be in writing and constitute a formal offer from each bidder. Bids may be submitted in advance for said property. Bids may be submitted in advance in writing for the foregoing property. The minimum bid shall be considered the opening bid for the property. Bids may be submitted in person (at the auction), via email, or in writing by telephone to Robert T. Torres, Attorney at Law, Plata Drive, Chalan Kiya, P.O. Box 500730, Saipan, MP 96950, Phone: 670-234-7859; Fax: 670-234-5749; Email: [robert.torres@rttlawgroup.com](mailto:robert.torres@rttlawgroup.com) by 8:00 a.m., Chamorro Standard Time on the auction date. Any person who submits his/her bid shall provide a copy of his/her valid Identification Card (valid CNMI Driver's License or Passport). A written bid shall include the bidder's signature, with his/her telephone number, mailing address, and any other contact information. The winning bidder shall be the person to whom the property is confirmed if the bid is accepted. The CNMI Retirement Fund assumes no liability for any errors or omissions as to a bidder's name or identification if that information is not correctly indicated on the bid form. **Please contact the Law Office of Robert T. Torres for a bid form.**

3. **Deposit and Payment.** A non-refundable guarantee deposit of ten percent (10%) of the purchase price must be paid on the day of the auction sale. The remaining balance will be due within ten (10) day of the auction sale by the winning bidder, no later than 4:00 pm on that date, by payment to the Law Office of Robert T. Torres. The remaining balance shall be due within ten (10) calendar days from the auction sale. If the tenth calendar day falls on a weekend then the balance shall be due that Monday after the tenth calendar day. **All payments shall be made by cash, money order, or cashier's check.** Failure to make payment of the remaining balance within ten (10) days will result in forfeiture by the buyer of the 10% deposit, and any and all of the bidder's rights, title, and interest in the money shall revert to the Northern Mariana Islands Retirement Fund.

4. **Change of Terms.** Auctioneer and the Northern Mariana Islands Retirement Fund reserve the right to change any of the terms conducted and enforcement of sale by the announcement, written or oral, made before the auction sale or at the commencement thereof, and such change or changes, by virtue of this clause shall be binding on any buyer by the constructive notice.

5. **Quitclaim Deed to Winning Bidder:** All bidders are notified that the NMI Retirement Funds, the Judgment - Creditors, shall issue a Quitclaim Deed to the Winning Bidder.

6. **Inspection and No Warranty.** Bidders are informed and cautioned to inspect the title and property including performing any title research, property inspection, boundary inspection, easement research, and encroachment research on the subject property. Contact the Law Office of Robert T. Torres for scheduled viewing and inspection times. The interests of the property are being sold "AS IS" and without warranties including but not limited to habitability or fitness for purpose. Failure to inspect the real property will not constitute a ground for any claim, adjustment, or rescission by any buyer. A copy of the appraisal report and other documents pertaining to the property to be sold at auction are available upon request for review in advance of the auction date.

**DATED** this 15th day of August 2022.

/s/  
Robert T. Torres, Auctioneer for  
Northern Mariana Islands Retirement Fund



## COMMUNITY BRIEFS

### DPL announces 3rd Annual Scholarship Essay Contest

The Department of Public Lands is holding its 3rd Annual Essay Contest for eligible students taking full-time college or trade school courses. Essays are due on Sept. 15, 2022, by 4pm, CHST.

This year's essay question is: "Should Article 12 be maintained, abolished or amended and why?"

Funding for this program is made possible through public benefit contributions from public land leases.

For application and more information, visit DPL's website at [www.dpl.gov.mp](http://www.dpl.gov.mp). (PR)

### SHEFA deadline

### for application, supporting documents Sept. 1

The Saipan Higher Education Financial Assistance office said the deadline for application and supporting documents is Sept. 1, 2022. You must have all the required documents ready to upload in order for your application submission to go through. Thank you for your cooperation.

Apply online at [www.saipanshefa.com](http://www.saipanshefa.com).

Create your student profile and submit your application! Here you will have instant access to the status of your application once your application package is submitted.

Note: Creating a student account online does not complete the application process.

You still need to submit the application and required documents. (PR)

### Update on the emergency power service interruption

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. would like to inform the general public that there was an emergency power service interruption for Feeders 1, 2 and Kiya 3, that happened yesterday, Aug. 25, at 3:09pm and we've turned the power back online on the following times below:

■ Feeder 1, at 3:13pm- Northern Part of Sadog Tasi to CHCC

■ Feeder 2, at 3:28pm- Garapan Beach Road, Chalan Laulau and Northern Part of San Jose

■ Kiya 3, at 3:28pm- Quarter Master, Gualo Rai, Parts of China Town, Chalan Kiya and Middle Road Chalan Laulau.

The cause of the emergency power service interruption was due to a failed connector on the distribution system in Garapan causing an electrical arch tripping multiple feeders resulting in a scheduled emergency power service interruption.

CUC continues to work diligently to minimize any inconvenience to its customers. For more information, contact the CUC Hotline (236-4333) or monitor our Facebook page for the latest updates (<https://www.facebook.com/CommonwealthUtilitiesCorporation/>). (PR)



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

### PACIFICA DONATION

Pacifica Insurance Underwriters, Inc. donated a heavy duty air bike exercise equipment to the Rota Mayor's Office to help promote a healthier living. Overall value of the donation is roughly \$1,300. In the photo is Pacifica Insurance operations manager Shigeki Tenorio joined by Rota acting mayor Jovann Lizama and special assistant for administration Rodney Taisacan. Pacifica believes that health truly is wealth and that our journey toward a healthier lifestyle is well underway and within reach.



## COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY (CPA)

Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT  
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950 • Phone: (670) 237-6500 • Fax: (670) 234-5962  
[www.cnmiports.com](http://www.cnmiports.com)

## AMENDED NOTICE TO BIDDERS

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY (CPA) is inviting qualified contractors to submit their qualifications and bid proposals for the **TINIAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT PARKING LOT EXPANSION PROJECT, PROJECT NO. CPA-TA-001-20**, OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS.

Bidders are to submit one original and two copies of their bid which shall be sealed in an envelope and marked on the cover package outside as follows: **"Tinian International Airport Parking Lot Expansion Project, CPA-TA-001-20"** and submitted on or before **2:00 p.m., MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 2022**, to the Office of the Executive Director, 2nd floor of the Arrival Terminal at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, at which time and place the sealed proposals will be publicly opened and read.

The Project, in general, consists of construction of additional parking spaces including all associated work, all in accordance with the Plans and Specifications.

The Project is being financed by funds by CPA. The contract award, if it is to be made, will be made within one hundred twenty (120) calendar days from the receipt of bids. CPA reserves the right to hold such bids in effect for one hundred eighty (180) calendar days from the date of bid opening.

A DVD containing the Contract Documents including plans, specifications and the bid schedule, may be obtained at the CPA Accounting Office, 2nd floor of the Departure Terminal at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, upon the payment of **ONE HUNDRED FIFTY U.S. DOLLARS (\$150.00)** for each DVD. The payment is nonrefundable. Payment shall be made in cash, credit card, cashier's check or U.S. postal money order payable to the Commonwealth Ports Authority. Bidders should notify CPA's point of contact mentioned below immediately if there are issues retrieving the files on the DVD and should verify all information using the specification table of contents and the index of drawings.

A pre-bid conference will be held at the Tinian International International Airport Departure Terminal, at **10:00 AM, FRIDAY, AUGUST 19, 2022**, to explain and clarify any questions regarding this project. A site visit will follow the pre-bid conference. This pre-bid is not mandatory. For site visits after the pre-bid conference, bidders are to coordinate with Mr. Antonio Borja, CPA's Tinian Ports Manager at [alborja@cnmiports.com](mailto:alborja@cnmiports.com) or telephone number (670) 433-9294.

Questions should be submitted in writing to the CPA Executive Director's Office, 2nd floor of the Arrival Terminal at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport or emailed to Ms. Wendi L. Prater, Executive Assistant/Project Manager at [wprater@cnmiports.com](mailto:wprater@cnmiports.com) at least ten (10) days prior to the bid opening date, with the exception of extension requests which have no deadline. Responses to all questions and requests for information will be provided to all bidders who purchased a DVD and attended the pre-bid conference.

Each bid proposal shall be on a form furnished by the Commonwealth Ports Authority and available on the DVD. Each bidder must also supply all supplemental information required in the specifications.

The contract period for construction of the project in its entirety shall be **Two Hundred Forty (240) calendar days**. Liquidated damages in the amount of **Five Hundred (\$500.00) Dollars** shall be assessed the Contractor for each calendar day that the completion of the Project is delayed beyond the contract completion date without approved excuse.

The apparent low bidder will be subject to a thorough and comprehensive review of its qualifications and Bid Documents to ensure that they are "responsive and responsible." This review will include, but is not necessarily limited to previous project experience, financial capabilities, quality of equipment and personnel, and bonding and insurance. If the apparent low bidder is found not to be "responsive or responsible", their bid will be rejected and the next lowest bidder will be evaluated for qualifications.

The Commonwealth Ports Authority reserves the right to reject any or all bid proposals submitted for: (a) any of the reasons set forth in this Notice to Bidders; or (b) any of the reasons set forth in the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations regarding bid rejection or cancellation; (c) any calculation error made in the bid schedule or misenter of the quantity of line item; or (d) sufficient justification exists that awarding the project contract would not be in the best interest of CPA. CPA further reserves the right to waive any defects in said bids if in its sole opinion to do so would be in CPA's best interest.

Each bid shall be accompanied by either a bid bond by a U.S. Treasury listed or CPA approved surety company, a certified check, or a cashier's check in the amount not less than ten percent (10%) of the bid price. Checks shall be made payable to the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

All mechanics and laborers for this procurement project shall be paid no less than the minimum wage rate established by the CNMI or the U.S. Secretary of Labor, whichever is higher. A copy of the Department of the Federal Labor Wage Rate Determination is included in Section GP 70-28 of the specifications. Bidders shall take into account minimum wage increases that may be imposed in the CNMI over the life of the Contract and include associated costs in the bid proposal. The EEO requirements, labor provisions, and wage rates are included in the specifications.

The Commonwealth Ports Authority, in accordance with the provisions of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (78 Stat. 252, 42 USC §§ 2000d to 2000d-4) and the Regulations, hereby notifies all bidders or offerors that it will affirmatively ensure that any contract entered into pursuant to this advertisement, disadvantaged business enterprises will be afforded full and fair opportunity to submit bids in response to this invitation and will not be discriminated against on the grounds of race, color, or national origin in consideration for an award.

The United States Secretary of Transportation has granted the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands an exemption from the requirements of the Department of Transportation's Minority Business Enterprise (MBE) regulation, which later became the Department of Transportation's Disadvantaged Business Enterprise program, as it relates to FAA grant programs. The Secretary of Transportation has not determined that a portion of those requirements should be reinstated.

By submitting a bid/proposal under this solicitation, the bidder or offeror certifies that neither it nor its principals are presently debarred or suspended by any Federal department or agency from participation in this transaction.

In addition to the above, all bidders shall comply with all other local and Federal requirements as outlined in the specifications.

FOR THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY:

/s/ CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO  
Executive Director

Date: August 22, 2022



## COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY(CPA) CNMI GOVERNMENT

Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT  
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950 • Phone: (670) 237-6500 • Fax: (670) 234-5962  
Website: [www.cnmiports.com](http://www.cnmiports.com)

## AMENDED NOTICE TO BIDDERS

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY (CPA) is inviting qualified contractors to submit bid proposals and their qualifications for the **FRANCISCO C. ADA/SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT COMMUTER TERMINAL BUILDING CONSTRUCTION, PROJECT NO. CPA-SA-007-19**, for the island of Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Bidders are to submit one original and two copies of their bid which shall be sealed in an envelope and marked on the cover package outside as follows: *Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport Commuter Terminal Building Construction, Project No. CPA-SA-007-19* and submitted no later than **2:00 P.M. (CHST), Friday, SEPTEMBER 16, 2022**, to the Office of the Executive Director, 2nd floor of the Arrival Terminal at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, at which time and place the sealed proposals will be publicly opened and read. Bidders are requested to minimize their company's attendees to ensure social distancing.

The Project, in general, consists of, but is not limited to, construction of a new commuter terminal facility with four (4) airline offices and counter space, restaurant vendor space, restrooms for departure and arrivals, lactating room, office space/counter for U.S. Customs and Border Protection including all associated work, all in accordance with the Plans and Specifications. In addition, the contractor is provided an allowance for artwork to be provided at the new commuter terminal. The artwork will be locally themed including, but not limited to, painting, murals, or as determined and coordinated with CPA.

The Project is being financed by funds by the Commonwealth Ports Authority. The contract award, if it is to be made, will be made within one hundred twenty (120) calendar days from the receipt of bids. CPA reserves the right to hold such bids in effect for one hundred eighty (180) calendar days from the date of bid opening.

A DVD containing the Contract Documents including plans, specifications and the bid schedule, may be obtained at the CPA Accounting Office, 2nd floor of the Departure Terminal at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, upon the payment of **THREE HUNDRED U.S. DOLLARS (\$300.00)** for each set of plans and documents in electronic form (DVD). The payment is nonrefundable unless bids are canceled. Payment shall be made in cash, credit card, cashier's check or U.S. postal money order payable to the Commonwealth Ports Authority. Bidders should notify CPA's point of contact mentioned below immediately if there are issues retrieving the files on the DVD and are to verify all information using the specification table of contents and the index of drawings.

A pre-bid conference will be held at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, at **10:00 A.M. (CHST), FRIDAY, AUGUST 12, 2022**, at the CPA Saipan Airport Conference Room to explain and clarify any questions regarding this project. Attendance is not mandatory. A site visit will follow the pre-bid conference. For site visits after the pre-bid conference, bidders are to coordinate with Mr. Edward B. Mendiola, CPA's Deputy Director at [edmendiola@cnmiports.com](mailto:edmendiola@cnmiports.com) or telephone number (670) 237-6500.

Questions should be submitted in writing to the CPA Executive Director's Office, 2nd floor of the Arrival Terminal at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport or emailed to Ms. Wendi L. Prater, Executive Assistant/Project Manager at [wprater@cnmiports.com](mailto:wprater@cnmiports.com) at least ten (10) days prior to the bid opening date; with the exception of bid opening extension requests which have no deadline. Responses to all questions and requests for information will be provided to all bidders who picked up a DVD or attended the pre-bid conference.

Bidders shall use the bid schedule form furnished by the Commonwealth Ports Authority on the DVD. Each bidder must also supply all supplemental information required in the specifications.

The contract period for construction of the project in its entirety shall be **FIVE HUNDRED FORTY (540) calendar days**. Liquidated damages in the amount of **ONE THOUSAND (\$1,000.00) Dollars** shall be assessed the Contractor for each calendar day that the completion of the Project is delayed beyond beyond the contract completion date without approved excuse.

The apparent low bidder will be subject to a thorough and comprehensive review of its qualifications and Bid Documents to ensure that they are "responsive and responsible." This review will include, but is not necessarily limited to previous project experience, financial capabilities, quality of equipment and personnel, and bonding and insurance. If the apparent low bidder is found not to be "responsive or responsible", their bid will be rejected and the next lowest bidder will be evaluated for qualifications.

The Commonwealth Ports Authority reserves the right to reject any or all bid proposals submitted for: (a) any of the reasons set forth in this Notice to Bidders; or (b) any of the reasons set forth in the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations regarding bid rejection or cancellation; (c) any calculation error made in the bid schedule or misenter of the quantity of line item; or (d) sufficient justification exists that awarding the project contract would not be in the best interest of CPA. CPA further reserves the right to waive any defects in said bids if in its sole opinion to do so would be in CPA's best interest.

Each bid shall be accompanied by either a bid bond by a U.S. Treasury listed or CPA approved surety company, a certified check, or a cashier's check in the amount not less than ten percent (10%) of the bid price. Checks shall be made payable to the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

All mechanics and laborers for this procurement project shall be paid no less than the minimum wage rate established by the CNMI or the U.S. Secretary of Labor, whichever is higher. A copy of the Department of the Federal Labor Wage Rate Determination is included in Section GP 70-28 of the specifications. The bidder shall take into account minimum wage increases that may be imposed in the CNMI over the life of the Contract and include associated costs in the bid proposal. The EEO requirements, labor provisions, and wage rates are included in the specifications.

The Commonwealth Ports Authority, in accordance with the provisions of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (78 Stat. 252, 42 USC §§ 2000d to 2000d-4) and the Regulations, hereby notifies all bidders or offerors that it will affirmatively ensure that any contract entered into pursuant to this advertisement, disadvantaged business enterprises will be afforded full and fair opportunity to submit bids in response to this invitation and will not be discriminated against on the grounds of race, color, or national origin in consideration for an award.

The United States Secretary of Transportation has granted the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands an exemption from the requirements of the Department of Transportation's Minority Business Enterprise (MBE) regulation, which later became the Department of Transportation's Disadvantaged Business Enterprise program, as it relates to FAA grant programs. The Secretary of Transportation has not determined that a portion of those requirements should be reinstated.

By submitting a bid/proposal under this solicitation, the bidder or offeror certifies that neither it nor its principals are presently debarred or suspended by any Federal department or agency from participation in this transaction.

In addition to the above, all bidders shall comply with all other Federal requirements under this procurement, including but not limited to Buy American Preference, Foreign Trade Restriction, Davis Bacon, Veteran's Preference, Affirmative Action and Government wide Debarment and Suspension and Governmentwide Requirements for Drug-free Workplace. Further details on all Federal requirements are provided in the specifications.

FOR THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY:

/s/ CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO  
Executive Director

Date: August 17, 2022



# GCC groundbreaking for Student Center Concrete Canopy

Guam Community College held the groundbreaking for the Student Center Concrete Canopy at the Student Square, in front of the Student Center, Building 5000. The 4,300 square foot concrete canopy

would now provide students with a large covered outdoor space to meet or just take a break between classes. There will also be uncovered spaces so students can take in the sun as well. This is the second

## Stay Cafe is latest ProaPerks Partner

Stay Cafe is the latest company to sign on as a Northern Marianas College ProaPerks Partner, joining many other businesses and organizations. All card-carrying members of the NMC ProaPerks program can now receive a 10% discount on all beverages.

Stay Cafe joins the growing list of ProaPerks partners, such as 153 Restaurant, 360 Restaurant, 4EVER CNMI, Alamo Car Rental, AllStar Sporting Goods, Aqua Connections, Inc., AQUASMITH, Athlete's Foot, Avis Rent A Car, BAB Korean Restaurant Cup Bab, Bistro Marianas, Chagi Norf Kitchen, Boarderline, Bolis R US 2, Candle J, Caravan of Food, Casa Decor, Casa Urashima, Chelu Alynez Enterprise, Chungi Wa Korean Restaurant, Clear Water Place, Clear Water Residence, Clear Water Villa, Coral Garden Hotel, Cosmos Lounge, D' Chef's Kitchen, Docomo Pacific, Dollar Days, Enterprise Car Rental, Ete Cafe, Fishing Tackle and Sporting Goods, Fork and Spoon, Furu-sato Restaurant, Garapan Restaurant Cafe & Grill, Gold's Gym, Grandvrio Resort Saipan, Great Harvest, Boyer Trading Company LLC. dba Ginen Saipan, Hardt Eye Clinic, Inc., Healing Stones Spa, Highway Express Auto

Care Center, Herman's Modern Bakery, Inc., Hertz Rental Car, Hyatt, Hotel Americano, Ina's Kitchen, International Roller Skates, Isla Shave Ice, Islander Rent A Car, Java Joe's, JC Cafe, Jhen's Sweet Corner Cakes, Judy's Cafe & Restaurant, Junlyn Salon, Kentucky Fried Chicken/Taco Bell, Kiki's, Korea House Restaurant, Latte Built Gym, Lohas Massage, Lohas Nails, Lucky Store, Lucky II Mart, Magbers Snack Bar, Majesty Restaurant, Mama D's Cafe, Mariana Lighthouse, Marianas Creation, MMC & Pacific Labs, LLC, Megabyte, Mermaid Restaurant & Milk tea, Nam Dae Moon, National Car Rental, Natural Nail & Spa, Neni Girl Nails, NMC Bookstore, Ocean Star Restaurant, Pacific Home Appliances, Paradise Dental Spa, Pizzeria Bar & Grill, Pokiyaki, Residence Lodge, Saipan Computer Services, Salt & Barber Salon, Shirley's Cafe, Salty's, Stay Cafe, Summer Snow Cafe & Kids Corner cafe, Summit Auto Repair Shop, Surf Club, Residence Lodge, Tempura's Best Restaurant, The Ohala Foundation Clothing, The Pacific Supply, The Shack, Time Creation Corp., Tinian Diamond Hotel, Tom Yum Restaurant, Tribe Marianas, and Triple J Motors. (PR)



CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

Dignitaries do the ceremonial shoveling of sand in the groundbreaking for Guam Community College's Student Center Concrete Canopy.



The 4,300-square foot Student Center Concrete Canopy at the Student Square would now provide students with a large covered outdoor space to meet or just take a break between classes.

groundbreaking the college hosted in less than a month for projects that will enhance the experience on GCC students on campus.

"Although this might seem like a small project based on what we have been doing over the past several years, it sure will have a big impact on our students," stated Dr. Mary Okada, GCC President. "If you have been a student at GCC, you'll remember the Fall Fest and Spring

Fest that our COPSA (Council on Postsecondary Student Affairs) leaders' coordinate. This new canopy will support those activities."

The ceremony also honored GCC Center for Student Involvement employees that have built the foundation of student support. "I really want to recognize individuals that have been the heart and the soul of COPSA for many years. We remember Barbara Leon Guerrero. We



Guam Community College Dr. Mary Okada delivers her remarks.

remember Donnie Lizama. We remember Latisha Leon Guerrero. All whom have passed that have really built the infrastructure and the support for our students," Okada added.

The concrete canopy was designed by Taniguchi Ruth Makio Architects (TRMA) and BME & Sons was awarded the construction project. Total cost for the project is \$1,351,597.03 and is funded through approved CARES

Act funding.

Okada shared an upcoming ribbon cutting ceremony in the next few months at the campus for the next completed construction project. "The past 15 years...and counting... have been truly amazing in terms of the support that you (GCC Board of Trustees and Foundation Board of Governors) have given us to build our capacity. I promise you though... this will not be the end," she said. (PR)

**Robert Tenorio Torres**  
Attorney at Law  
Plata Drive, Whispering Palms (Chalan Kiya)  
P.O. Box 500730, Saipan, MP 96950  
Tel: (670) 234-7859 | Fax: (670) 234-5749  
Attorney for Plaintiff Marianas Public Land Trust

### IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

MARIANAS PUBLIC LAND TRUST, Plaintiff,  
vs.  
EDWIN B. TUDELA and PATRICIA A. TUDELA, and  
PENTECOSTAL CHURCH OF CHRIST through its representative, Pastor Clariza S. Ilarde, Successor in Interest, Defendants.

TO: THE ABOVE-NAMED DEFENDANTS, EDWIN B. TUDELA and PATRICIA A. TUDELA:

You have been made as Defendants in the suit filed in this Commonwealth Superior Court by Plaintiff Marianas Public Land Trust (MPLT), on its COMPLAINT FOR FORECLOSURE.

You may file any answer you wish to make to the Complaint filed against you in this action within **Twenty-One (21) Days** after the date of the last publication of this Summons. You must deliver or mail a copy of your answer to **Robert Tenorio Torres, Attorney at Law, Plata Drive, Whispering Palms (Chalan Kiya), P.O. Box 500730, Saipan, MP 96950**, or as soon as practicable after filing your answer or sending it to the Clerk of Court of the above-entitled Court for filing.

Your answer should be in writing and filed with the Office of the Clerk of Court, CNMI SUPERIOR COURT, 1st Floor, Guma' Hustisia, Immwai Aweewe, House of Justice, Susupe Village, P.O. Box 500730, Saipan MP 96950-0307. It may be prepared and signed for you by your Attorney and sent to the Clerk of Court by messenger or by mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice.

If you fail to file an answer in accordance with this Amended Summons, judgment by default pursuant to the court rules of the above-entitled Court may be taken against you for the relief demanded in the Complaint for Foreclosure.

SO ORDERED on this 10th day of August, 2022.

/s/  
Clerk of Court/Deputy Clerk

**Joey P. San Nicolas**  
Attorney-at-Law  
San Nicolas Law Office, LLC  
2nd Floor, Island Commercial Center, Rm. 203  
Chalan Pale Amok, Gualo Rai  
P.O. Box 10,001 PMB 602, Saipan, MP 96950  
Tel: (670) 234-7659 | Fax: (670) 234-9218  
Email: jpsn@sannicolaw.net  
Attorney for Petitioner Victoria Lola M. Leon Guerrero

### IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS


IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF: **RAYMOND JESSE AGUON LEON GUERRERO**, Decedent.  
Civil Action No.: 21-0152-CV  
NOTICE OF HEARING

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the amended petition of VICTORIA LOLA M. LEON GUERRERO for decree of final distribution in this estate will be heard before the Honorable Joseph N. Camacho, Associate Judge, on the 15th day of September, 2022, at 10:00 a.m., at the NMI Superior Court, Court Room 220A, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. All persons interested are hereby notified to appear at the hearing and show cause, if any, why the order should not be made.

For further particulars, please refer to the Amended Petition on file herein, or contact counsel for Petitioner, Joey P. San Nicolas, P.O. Box 10,001 PMB 602, Saipan, MP 96950; telephone (670) 234-7659 and email jpsn@sannicolaw.net.

Dated this 24th day of August, 2022.

Hon. JOSEPH N. CAMACHO  
Associate Judge



## DIVISION OF COASTAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

P. O. Box 501304, Saipan MP 96950 • Gualo Rai Center, Saipan  
TEL. NO. 664-8300 FAX NO. 664-8315 • [www.dcrm.gov.mp](http://www.dcrm.gov.mp)

# NOTICE OF APPLICATION

as of August 26, 2022

THE FOLLOWING IS A PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT OF COASTAL PERMIT APPLICATIONS RECEIVED BY THE DCRM OFFICE:

APPLICANT	DATE APPLICATION RECEIVED	APPLICATION PROJECT DESCRIPTION	LOCATION	TYPE	STATUS
1. TaoTao Marianas Inc. dba Tao Tao Marine Sports	07/22/2022 SLR-2018-X-092-R5	Personal Water Jet Craft	Beach Area North of Grand Vrio, Saipan	Lagoon & Reef	Approved 08/16/2022
2. TaoTao Marianas Inc. dba Tao Tao Marine Sports	07/22/2022 SLR-2018-X-093-R5	Parasailing Operations	Beach Area North of Grand Vrio, Saipan	Lagoon & Reef	Approved 08/16/2022
3. Aquatic Marine Co. Inc. dba Aquatic Marine Sports	08/01/2022 SLR-2022-051	Banana Boat, Parasailing, & Snorkeling	Outer Cove Marina, Saipan	Lagoon & Reef	Approved* 08/16/2022
4. Aquatic Marine Co. Inc. dba Aquatic Marine Sports	08/01/2022 SLR-2022-052	Personal Water Jet Craft	Outer Cove Marina, Saipan	Lagoon & Reef	Approved* 08/16/2022
5. Kwon & Byun Corporation dba Saipan Atty Dive	08/04/2022 SLR-2022-053	SCUBA Diving Tour Operation	All Designated Dive Sites on Saipan	Lagoon & Reef	Approved* 08/16/2022
6. Captain Nite's Boat Charter, LLC	08/09/2022 SLR-2022-055	Banana Boat	Saipan & Managaha Lagoon	Lagoon & Reef	Approved* 08/16/2022
7. Nury Corporation dba Divewish	08/11/2022 SLR-2022-057	SCUBA Diving Tour Operation	All Designated Dive Sites	Lagoon & Reef	Approved* 08/17/2022
8. Atkins Kroll (Saipan), Inc.	08/15/2022 SMS-2022-056	AK Toyota Lexus Saipan Dealership Facility	Puerto Rico, Saipan	Major Siting	Application Review*

NMIAC §15-10-210 of the CRM Rules and Regulations requires all permit applications to be published in a newspaper for general circulation within the CNMI within 15 days of receipt of application. The list reflects recently received permit applications and those with a recent change in status. New applications are marked with an asterisk (\*).

The Public is invited to submit written comments regarding any of the above projects for which a permit decision has not been issued. All permit comments should identify the project by application number. Your comments should be mailed or hand-delivered to the DCRM Office. All persons who desire a public hearing regarding any project may do so by submitting a written request for a public hearing to the DCRM Office within fourteen (14) days for minor permits (APCs) and proposed amended major sitings. Public Hearings are required for all new major siting projects. All public hearing notices are published in a local newspaper of general circulation. Residents of Rota and Tinian may submit comments and hearing requests to their local DCRM Coordinator. Persons wishing to retain the right to appeal a DCRM Permit decision must file a notice of appeal with the DCRM office within thirty (30) days of the issuance of the DCRM permit decision as provided in Part 200 § 15-10-235 of the DCRM Regulations.



# Opinion

Hafa Adail

## Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

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### EDITORIAL

## Reforms vital after CDC's fumbling

**A** North Dakota native has been named to a new and vital health care post. The nation ought to wish her well because the task before her is daunting: overseeing the overhaul of the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) after its frustrating response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Mary Wakefield, who was born and educated in Minnesota's northwest neighbor, is a nurse and veteran health care administrator who served as acting deputy secretary of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services under former President Barack Obama. Last week, Wakefield was tapped to serve in a new role at the CDC: leading a team that will determine fixes to problems identified by two reviews of the agency's flawed COVID-19 approach.

Wakefield will bring a pragmatic Midwestern sensibility to the role, according to those who have worked with her. Even so, the task she faces is monumental.

Long considered one of the world's premier public health assets, the CDC turned in a fumbling performance at a time when the agency's best work was needed. The stumbling began early with the bungled development of COVID-19 testing — a failing the Star Tribune Editorial Board sounded the alarm about on Feb. 6, 2020.

Unfortunately, the CDC failed to find its footing after that. While the agency is staffed with world-class scientists, they never gelled as a team.

Early chaos surrounding supplies of personal protective equipment for health care workers was one result. But communication to the public was particularly problematic. For much of the pandemic, COVID-19 trackers built by The New York Times and nonprofit organizations filled in information gaps about cases, hospitalizations and deaths.

The information the CDC did provide was often slow and written for a scientific audience. Adequate explanations were missing when public health recommendations evolved. While these changes reflected expanding knowledge of the virus and other developments, too often they felt arbitrary.

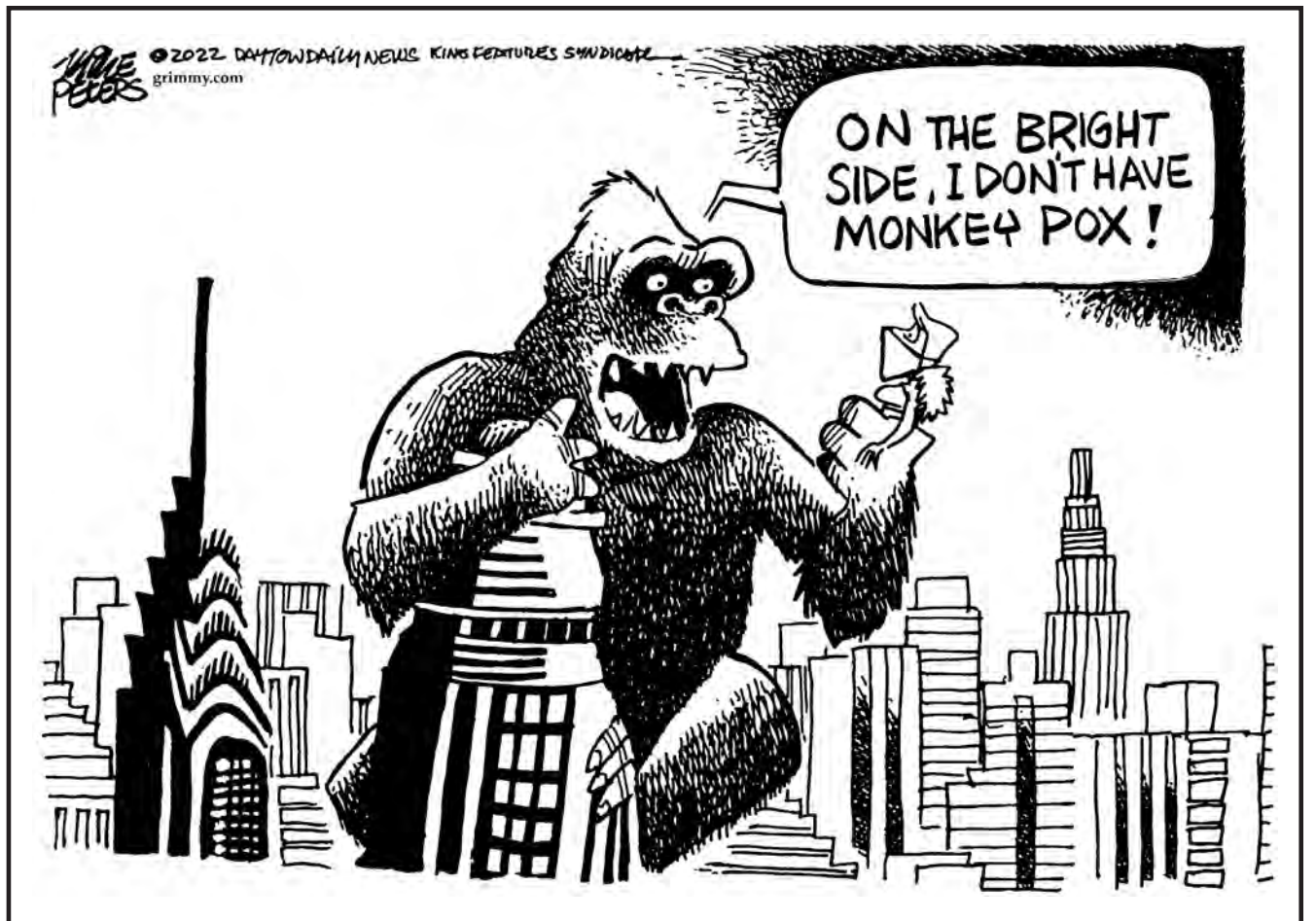
Masking is one example. There was early equivocation about the value, but later the agency embraced masks as part of the strategy to stop COVID-19's spread. It felt like a switch had flipped, and the abruptness helped feed the rebellion against their use.

The agency's communication struggles have continued during the Biden administration. Officials seem to have a tin ear when it comes to pleas for a second booster shot from those who aren't currently eligible — essentially, healthy adults under 50. Many are concerned about variants and worry about previous shots' waning protection.

The first step toward improvement requires acknowledging there's a problem. For that, CDC Director Dr. Rochelle Walensky merits praise. She stepped into that role in early 2021 as a presidential appointee, and it's to her credit that she recognizes the need for reform.

"I thought she called it out like real leadership does," Andy Slavitt, a former Minnesota health care executive who served

*See CDC'S on Next Page*



## We're starting to understand long COVID. Next we can fight it

**W**e've been chasing the coronavirus since the pandemic began with vaccines and drugs, never getting ahead of it. In fact, well into its third year, COVID-19 is still causing often disabling symptoms among many people who were infected in early 2020.

The condition of long COVID, also known as post-acute sequelae of SARS CoV-2 infection, is rife with mysteries. While its incidence among adults who have been infected has been estimated at 5% to 40%, a recent study that tracked symptoms before infections and compared participants to controls has given us one of the best snapshots to date. It indicated that 1 in 8 people who have had COVID-19 experience prolonged symptoms over many months.

With vaccinations and different variants, the incidence may be lower, but even if it were half as many (6% of adults who have been infected), and we assume two-thirds of adults have had COVID-19, that would equate to more than 10 million Americans who have endured persistent symptoms that interfere with their daily life activities, frequently impairing their ability to return to work.

One of the mysteries: As opposed to those most likely to get severe COVID-19, the vast majority of people affected by long COVID are younger (30 to 50 years old) and previously healthy. The typical symptoms include marked fatigue, exercise intolerance, difficulty breathing, brain fog, muscle pain and weakness, chest pain, headaches and fast heart rate. While the list of troubling symptoms is long, the number of proven therapies is very short — zero.

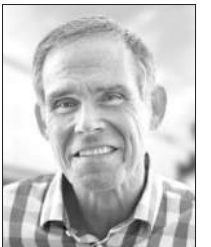
The first step for identifying candidate therapies is to demystify the biology of long COVID. A better understanding of its basis has come from recent studies that zoom in on an immune response that has gone haywire. That can include antibodies attacking the body's own proteins; persistent antibodies to the virus' spike protein, indicating a reservoir of infection triggering a response; exhausted T-cells; and markers of reactivation of prior virus infections in the herpes virus family (Epstein-Barr and varicella-zoster).

A combined team from Yale and Mount Sinai used artificial intelligence to determine what, of so many factors, may be of central importance in determining whether a COVID-19 patient develops lingering symptoms. There was a singular driver — low cortisol in the blood — a particularly intriguing finding.

This hormone, produced by the adrenal gland in response to stress, has diverse functions. When it is below healthy levels, as has also been found in chronic fatigue syndrome, it could be tied to some of the symptoms of long COVID. Normally a dip in cortisol would trigger the brain to tell the pituitary gland to increase its output of adrenocorticotropic hormone. However, in the new

**By ERIC J. TOPOL**  
Los Angeles Times

*Eric J. Topol is a professor of molecular medicine at Scripps Research and author of the newsletter Ground Truths.*



report, ACTH levels were quite low, indicating that the problem is not at the adrenal gland, but localized to the brain. Perhaps that helps explain why preliminary studies of giving steroids to people with long COVID have not shown any benefit. The steroids have aimed to address symptoms in the body instead of root causes in the brain.

Some people with long COVID have a marked increase in heart rate and lightheadedness (and near fainting) when standing from a reclining position. This is thought to stem from dysfunction of the autonomic nervous system and raises the possibility that inflammation of the nervous system, in or outside the brain, might be a unifying underpinning of long COVID.

While these studies have helped illuminate potential biomarkers, we still do not have one that has been validated in large numbers of people with long COVID, which is essential to provide an objective measure. Large studies will also be needed to determine effectiveness of treatments inspired by these findings.

We are very late in the process of doing randomized clinical trials to find a treatment that relieves symptoms or provides full resolution. There are more than 25 trials that have been launched with many different types of drugs or supplements, but all of them are quite small. The trials have generally not been partitioned by the cluster of patient symptoms, such as those with lightheadedness or people who are predominantly suffering from difficulty breathing and brain fog. With so many millions of people impaired, the need for accelerating clinical trials with promising immune-system modulating or virus-inactivating agents is beyond urgent.

The "long" in long COVID has not been emphasized enough. A new report from more than 1.25 million people with COVID-19 showed an increased risk of developing brain fog, dementia, seizures and psychosis over two years. Similarly, follow-up at one year or longer has shown an increased risk of heart and blood vessel diseases, diabetes, clotting disorders, and lung and

*See COVID on Next Page*



# Which dog breeds are the least healthy? These eight might top the list

All caring guardians want the same thing for our dogs: a long, healthy, happy life. But even with excellent care, certain breeds are more likely to have you trekking to the vet's office than to the dog park. While all "purebred" dogs are predisposed to genetic conditions that cause discomfort and disability, one group stands out from the rest.

Dogs who have been bred (and typically inbred) to have the flat faces that the American Kennel Club and some social media influencers tout as desirable are afflicted by an uncomfortable, debilitating and sometimes fatal condition called brachycephalic syndrome. In short, it means that their disfigured snouts and constricted airways leave them struggling just to breathe. Far from being "normal," the flat faces often associated with French bulldogs, English bulldogs, pugs, Pekingese, Boston terriers, boxers, Cavalier King Charles spaniels, shih tzus and certain other breeds cause them myriad health problems, including sleep apnea, coughing, gagging, retching, vomiting, tiring easily, collapsing, fainting, dental issues, eye problems caused by misshapen skulls, laryngeal collapse caused by chronic stress on the cartilage and strain on the heart from fighting for air.

It can be tough or even impossible for these breathing-impaired breeds to go for a walk or to run and play with their guardians. And according to a recent study at the University of California-Los Angeles, such facial deformities may even hamper their ability to smell. This condition affects all the things that matter the most to dogs.

During the hot summer months, breathing impairment can turn deadly. Dogs must be able to pant in order to cool themselves. And with narrow, restricted nostrils and windpipes, these

dogs often can't cope. They're at least twice as likely to suffer from heatstroke as other dogs.

It's little wonder that in Germany, breathing-impaired breeds are referred to as "tortured breeds," and the breeding practices that result in pain and distress for dogs are restricted, as they are in Austria, Norway and the Netherlands. Elsewhere, breeders persist, despite knowing how much anguish these dogs endure, just to suit the latest fad. As long as people keep spending thousands of dollars to buy suffering "designer dogs," breeders will keep churning them out.

The best way to spare breathing-impaired breeds a lifetime of misery is not to buy or breed them. If you already have one, please take extra precautions during physical activities and in hot weather. Signs of heatstroke include restlessness, excessive thirst, thick saliva, heavy panting, lethargy, dark tongue, rapid heartbeat, fever, vomiting, bloody diarrhea and lack of coordination. If someone you know has their heart set on purchasing one of these breeds because they think it will get them Instagram "likes," talk to them about adoption. Shelters are full of "pure-

By **MICHELLE REYNOLDS**

People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals



*Michelle Reynolds is a senior writer for the PETA Foundation.*

bred" dogs who were bought on a whim and then dumped once the excitement wore off or they became "too much work" or the vet bills started to mount. They're also overflowing with one-of-a-kind dogs who are equally deserving and less likely to have chronic health issues.

Providing a cherished adopted dog with a full, healthy and joyous life — that should be the goal.

## Disneyland may be overpriced and crowded. But there's no escaping it

I almost spit out my coffee last week when I read that Disneyland has introduced a new annual pass with a top price of \$1,600. (Well, \$1,599, but who's counting?)

I do not pretend to understand the park's byzantine pass system, which was suspended during the pandemic and reinstated a year ago with a new structure and higher prices before being paused again in May to better control crowds, according to park officials. Last week, Disneyland began selling passes again. But you can't buy one unless you already have one. Did you follow that?

The new passes, called Magic Keys, are offered in four tiers. The least expensive — at \$449 — is available only to residents of Southern California. But passholders should not expect to be able to visit the park during the busiest times of year, especially just before and after Christmas.

"The price hikes — as high as 16% — and the limitations on Christmas visits," writes my colleague Hugo Martin, "are the latest chapter in the saga of the resort's annual pass program, which is very popular with hard-core Disneyland fans but has been blamed for increased crowding ... especially during peak summer and holiday travel seasons."

One very disappointed annual pass holder filed a \$5 million lawsuit against the company in December, alleging she was deceived by its promise of "no blackout dates" when she purchased her \$1,399 annual pass in September. When she tried to make a reservation for November (yes, all visitors now need reservations), she was told nothing was available on her desired dates, she claims in the suit. Yet, according to the disgruntled pass holder, it was possible to purchase single-day tickets for all her chosen days.

"Disney," says the lawsuit, "appears to be limiting the number of reservations available to Dream Key pass holders on any given day in order to maximize the number of single day and other passes that Disney can sell." That, it claimed, means that annual passes are "essentially, a 'second class' ticket."

Disneyland officials say they have been clear about the terms of the passes and will vigorously defend the lawsuit. It would not hurt the company to be more transparent, even though I doubt the lawsuit will put even a pebble-sized dent in the park's popularity.

Also, good luck trying to figure out how much single-day tickets cost. There are apparently six different tiers, with different prices. All I can tell you is the single-day ticket I bought for my 12-year-old niece in June cost \$154. How do working families afford such stratospheric prices?

Many years ago, a Times consumer columnist incurred the wrath of Disneyland, Knott's Berry Farm and Universal Studios when she suggested that families simply stay away in the summer. "If more people did it," she wrote, "it would sure thin out the crowds." I thought she had a point, but the amusement parks were not amused and apparently made their unhappiness known to our then-publisher.

Quite simply, for more than half a century, the Disney universe, well, multiverse, has become inextricably entwined with the lives of American children. (Adults, too. Just Google "Disney weddings." My stepson told me he once saw a newly married couple stepping out of their horse-drawn glass carriage at the end of their ride. "Is that all?" said the disappointed bride.)

When I was a kid, we gathered in front of the television in the living room at the end of every weekend for "Walt Disney's Wonderful World of Color." It was always such a great way to conquer the Sunday night blues. Uncle Walt himself would introduce each episode. It was wholesome family entertainment,

By **ROBIN ABCARIAN**

Los Angeles Times



*Robin Abcarian is an opinion columnist at the Los Angeles Times.*

yes, and a blatantly seductive ad for Disneyland, the groundbreaking theme park that had opened in Anaheim in 1955.

Fifty years ago, a trip to Disneyland was a huge moment in a family's life, especially a family like ours with four kids. It was a rare treat, something to save for, something to savor.

I probably visited Disneyland only three or four times in my first 30 years, including on my high school's "grad night." Those were the days when young men with long hair would have to tuck their locks under a hat or face expulsion, and young women could wear pants but only as part of pantsuits.

The Disney dress code has relaxed considerably since then, although relatively recently some TikTok influencers claimed they purposely wore skimpy tops to the park to get free shirts, and another raised a fuss after being told she had to change out of her poufy, floor-length princess gown. (It confuses little kids on the hunt for real Disney princesses, say park officials, and could also get tangled on rides.)

Once I grew up, Disneyland helped me discover how much I loathe crowds. Sure, I enjoy a high-speed flume ride as much as the next person, but I have zero interest in waiting in line for more than an hour to be tossed around Matterhorn Mountain, to watch a ghost appear on my shoulder in the Haunted Mansion, or gape at lascivious pirates of the Caribbean who used to auction wenches before Disney caught up with the times.

My family members are Disneyland fanatics who go as often as they can afford to. But these days when they make plans for a day at the park, I bow out.

Still, I avidly follow all news Disney.

Especially when someone like Florida Republican Gov. Ron DeSantis decides to bolster his bigot bona fides by punishing the company for opposing his "Don't Say Gay" law.

Or when the company finds itself in an uncomfortable spotlight for the influence it wields over the city of Anaheim as part of a "cabal," as the city's former Chamber of Commerce president described it in a call intercepted by the FBI, that operates to what some locals say is the detriment of the citizenry.

The Walt Disney Co. has occasionally shown itself to be thin-skinned, such as when it banned Times entertainment journalists from screenings and other events after the paper ran a two-part series in 2017 about its ties to Anaheim city government.

However you feel about the company, or its theme parks, streaming channels and merchandise, it is an undeniable cultural force that has infiltrated our lives.

Years ago, when my daughter was a toddler, we drove past a Disney building in Burbank, with Walt's distinctive loopy signature on display. She had been to Disneyland once and was already an avid watcher of the Disney Channel and consumer of Disney-brand toys.

"Wook!" she said, pointing. "Disney!" It was the first word she ever read out loud.

### CDC'S

From Page 10

on President Joe Biden's COVID-19 response team, told an editorial writer. Slavitt also was the acting head of the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services during the Obama administration.

Slavitt applauded the move to have Wakefield oversee reforms at the CDC. He worked with her at the federal level and said she's focused, practical and "listens before she talks."

Minnesota infectious disease expert Michael Osterholm also lauded Walensky's reform efforts. Implementing change will be challenging though, he said, adding that the "devil is in the details."

In an interview, Osterholm called on Congress to ensure the CDC has the funding and other resources it needs to carry out its vital mission.

The Star Tribune Editorial Board agrees and would like to see Minnesota's congressional delegation at the forefront of this. The CDC has many critics. With that comes a responsibility to right this ship. Everyone has an interest because disease threats continue, as monkeypox's spread and polio's re-emergence illustrate.

As to the importance of getting CDC reforms right, Osterholm said, "If this were on a scale of 1 to 10, this is about a 12."

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### COVID

From Page 10

kidney damage, even among people who had only mild to moderate COVID-19 and were not hospitalized. Such risk appears to be cumulatively increased with reinfections, including infections that break through vaccinations.

While we await a validated biomarker and effective treatments, what can we do about long COVID? First off, we can drop the skepticism and denial. Long COVID is real, and it takes a real toll. In the latest study, which followed patients and controls for an average of 400 days, there is a very close tracking of self-reported symptoms with objective markers — in fact 94%.






The recent relaxation of mitigation measures by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention is premature, at a time when COVID-19 hospitalizations are at a plateau for adults at more than 40,000, four times what they were in April, and still rising for children. Fortunately, children are at very low risk for long COVID, but the rare cases are linked with a doubling of some serious sequelae such as cardiovascular events.

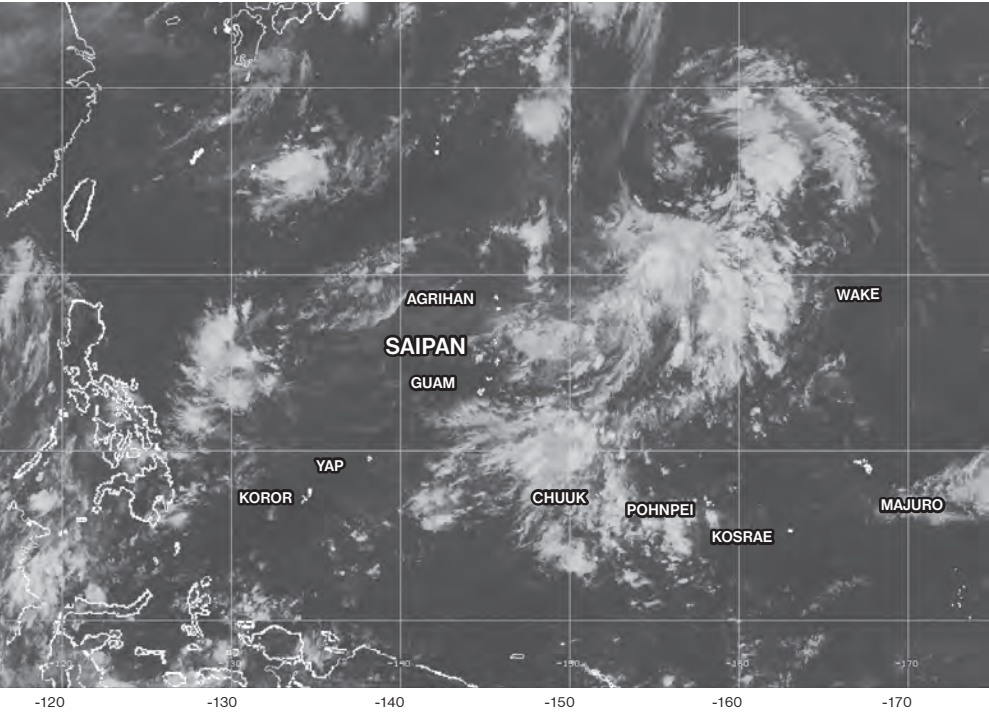
For all ages, vaccination and booster rates in the U.S. are very low, even though it has been shown that vaccination helps minimize the chance of developing long COVID. Right now, our best chance to prevent long COVID is to not get COVID-19 or to avoid getting it again. That's why it's vital to stay COVID-cautious now, and not capitulate to the notion that we should "live with COVID."

Too many people are indeed living with chronic COVID, detracting from their daily lives. As we eventually emerge from this pandemic, long COVID will be the enduring, major public health complication that we failed to address in a timely and aggressive manner. It's not too late to invest in understanding and combating it.



# The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN									
TODAY		SATURDAY		SUNDAY		MONDAY		TUESDAY	
									
Scattered showers and thunderstorms. Partly sunny		Scattered showers and thunderstorms. Mostly cloudy		Partly sunny		A chance of showers. Partly sunny		A chance of showers. Mostly cloudy	
88°	78°	87°	77°	88°	78°	88°	78°	88°	78°
YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE									



PICTURE TIME: 10:28 AM, THURSDAY, AUGUST 25, 2022

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Gentle winds and mostly clear skies prevail in the Marianas. Ritidian buoy indicates seas are between 2 and 3 feet.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: [www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/](http://www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/)

MICRONESIA			▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	85° / 77°	
Palau	Partly Cloudy	84° / 76°	
Yap	Partly Cloudy	86° / 78°	
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	86° / 80°	
Pohnpei	Partly Cloudy	88° / 76°	
Kosrae	Partly Cloudy	86° / 78°	
Majuro	Thunderstorms	84° / 79°	

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:03 AM	6:33 PM
Saturday	6:04 AM	6:33 PM
Sunday	6:04 AM	6:32 PM
Monday	6:04 AM	6:31 PM
Tuesday	6:04 AM	6:30 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	4:53 AM	6:02 PM	-
Saturday	5:44 AM	6:42 PM	-
Sunday	6:34 AM	7:19 PM	-
Monday	7:24 AM	7:55 PM	-
Tuesday	8:14 AM	8:32 PM	-

AROUND THE GLOBE			▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Light Rain	62° / 54°	
Beijing	Cloudy	84° / 57°	
Hong Kong	Thunderstorms	86° / 81°	
Honolulu	Mostly Sunny	88° / 75°	
London	Partly Cloudy	74° / 57°	
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	87° / 66°	
Manila	Thunderstorms	89° / 78°	
Melbourne	Showers	58° / 46°	
Miami	Partly Cloudy	89° / 81°	
New York	Mostly Sunny	91° / 74°	
Osaka	Cloudy	90° / 77°	
Paris	Cloudy	82° / 59°	
Busan	Partly Cloudy	85° / 71°	
Rome	Rain	77° / 70°	
Salem	Showers	79° / 69°	
San Francisco	Cloudy	67° / 58°	
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	85° / 66°	
Tokyo	Scattered Thunderstorms	88° / 78°	
Washington, DC	Partly Cloudy	91° / 73°	

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY			FEET
1:17 AM	Low Tide	1.20	
6:15 AM	High Tide	1.85	
1:26 PM	Low Tide	0.04	
8:19 PM	High Tide	1.87	

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF AUGUST 1, 2022							
DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)				GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA117	9:50AM	10:30AM	Daily	UA174	8:00AM	8:45AM	Daily
UA156	6:30PM	7:15PM	6	UA112	4:40PM	5:30PM	6
GUAM-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-GUAM			
PR 111	6:00AM	8:00AM	Daily	PR110	10:00PM	4:00AM+1	Daily
UA193	7:05PM	10:55PM	5 via Palau	UA184	10:25PM	4:25AM+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 7
UA183	7:10PM	9:10PM	Daily	UA192	10:25PM	6:15AM+1	5 via Palau
				UA184	11:50PM	5:40AM+1	5
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
UA117/183	9:50AM	9:10PM	Daily via Guam	UA184/174	10:25PM	8:45AM+1	1,2,3, 4, 6, 7 via Guam
UA117/193	9:50AM	10:55PM	5 via Guam, Palau	UA192/174	10:25PM	8:45AM+1	5 via Palau, Guam
				UA184/174	11:50PM	8:45AM+1	5 via Guam
SAIPAN-INCHEON (ICN)				INCHEON (ICN)-SAIPAN			
TW9308	3:30PM	7:20PM	Daily	7C3406	8:30AM	2:10PM	6
7C3405	3:30PM	7:25PM	6	7C3406	8:50AM	2:50PM	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7
7C3405	3:50PM	7:45PM	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7	OZ623	9:00AM	2:30PM	3, 6
OZ624	4:00PM	7:40PM	3, 6	TW9307	9:15AM	2:30PM	Daily
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)				BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN			
7C3451	3:00PM	6:20PM	3, 7	7C3452	9:00AM	2:00PM	3, 7
BX621	3:10PM	6:30PM	3, 7	BX622	8:00AM	1:10PM	3, 7

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines; PR, Philippine Airlines; TW, T'Way Air; OZ, Asiana Airlines; 7C, Jeju Air; BX, Air Busan • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. (The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

MARIANAS SOUTHERN AIRWAYS									
INITIAL DAILY FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF AUGUST 18, 2022									
SAIPAN TO TINIAN			TINIAN TO SAIPAN						
DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY				
7:00 A.M.	7:15 A.M.	(Except Sundays)	7:35 A.M.	7:50 A.M.	(Except Sundays)				
9:50 A.M.	10:05 A.M.		10:25 A.M.	10:40 A.M.					
4:00 P.M.	4:15 P.M.	(Except Saturdays)	4:35 P.M.	4:50 P.M.	(Except Saturdays)				
SAIPAN TO ROTA			ROTA TO SAIPAN						
DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY				
8:10 A.M.	8:40 A.M.		9:00 A.M.	9:30 A.M.					
1:45 P.M.	2:15 P.M.		2:35 P.M.	3:05 P.M.					
SAIPAN TO GUAM			GUAM TO SAIPAN						
DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY				
11:10 A.M.	12:00 P.M.		12:30 P.M.	1:20 P.M.					
5:15 P.M.	6:05 P.M.		6:40 P.M.	7:30 P.M.					

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.									
FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JUNE 1, 2022									
SAIPAN TO ROTA				ROTA TO SAIPAN					
FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY	FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY		
1301	8:30	9:00	Daily	3101	9:30	10:00	Daily		
1302	11:00	11:30	Mon/Wed/Fri	3102	13:00	13:30	Tues/Thurs/Sat/Sun		
1302	12:00	12:30	Tues/Thurs/Sat/Sun	3102	14:00	14:30	Mon/Wed/Fri		
1303	15:30	16:00	Daily	3103	16:30	17:00	Daily		
ROTA TO GUAM				GUAM TO ROTA					
LIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY	FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY		
3401	12:00	12:30	Mon/Wed/Fri	4301	13:00	13:30	Mon/Wed/Fri		
SAIPAN TO TINIAN				TINIAN TO SAIPAN					
FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY	FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY		
1202	8:00	8:15	Daily	2102	8:30	8:45	Daily		
1203	9:00	9:15	Daily	2103	9:30	9:45	Daily		
1204	10:00	10:15	Daily	2104	10:30	10:45	Daily		
1208	14:00	14:15	Daily	2108	14:30	14:45	Daily		
1209	15:00	15:15	Daily	2109	15:30	15:45	Daily		
1210	16:00	16:15	Daily	2110	16:30	16:45	Daily		
1211	17:00	17:15	Daily	2111	17:30	17:45	Daily		

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Business

Student loan forgiveness could help more than 40M

**WASHINGTON (AP)—**More than 40 million Americans could see their student loan debt reduced — and in many cases eliminated — under the long-awaited forgiveness plan President Joe Biden announced Wednesday, a historic but politically divisive move in the run-up to the mid-term elections.

Fulfilling a campaign promise, Biden is erasing \$10,000 in federal student loan debt for those with incomes below \$125,000 a year, or households that earn less than \$250,000. He’s canceling an additional \$10,000 for those who received federal Pell Grants to attend college.

It’s seen as an unprecedented attempt to stem the tide of America’s rapidly rising student debt, but it doesn’t address the broader issue — the high cost of college.

Republicans quickly denounced the plan as an insult to Americans who have repaid their debt and to those who didn’t attend college. Critics across the political spectrum also questioned whether Biden has authority for the move, and legal challenges are virtually certain.

Biden also extended a pause on federal student loan payments for what he called the “final time.” The pause is now set to run through the end of the year, with repayments to restart in January.

“Both of these targeted actions are for families who need it the most: working and middle class people hit especially hard during the pandemic,” Biden said at the White House Wednesday afternoon.

The cancellation applies to federal student loans used to attend undergraduate and graduate school, along with Parent Plus loans. Current college students qualify if their loans were issued before July 1. For dependent students, their parents’ household income must be below \$250,000.

Most people will need to apply for the relief. The Education Department has income data for a small share of borrowers, but the vast majority will need to prove their incomes through an application process. Officials said applications will be available before the end of the year.

Biden’s plan makes 43 million borrowers eligible for some debt forgiveness, with 20 million who could get their debt erased entirely, according to the administration. About 60% of borrowers are recipients of federal Pell Grants, which are reserved for undergraduates with the most significant financial need, meaning more than half can get \$20,000 in relief.

Sabrina Cartan, a 29-year-old media strategist in New York City, is expecting her federal debt to get wiped out entirely. When she checked the balance Wednesday, it was \$9,940.

Study: Pfizer COVID pill showed no benefit in younger adults

**WASHINGTON (AP) —** Pfizer’s COVID-19 pill appears to provide little or no benefit for younger adults, while still reducing the risk of hospitalization and death for high-risk seniors, according to a large study published Wednesday.

The results from a 109,000-patient Israeli study are likely to renew questions about the U.S. government’s use of Paxlovid, which has become the go-to treatment for COVID-19 due to its at-home convenience.

The Biden administration has spent more than \$10 billion purchasing the drug and making it available at thousands of pharmacies through its test-and-treat initiative.

The researchers found that Paxlovid reduced hospitalizations among people 65 and older by roughly 75% when given shortly after infection. That’s consistent with earlier results used to authorize the drug in the U.S. and other nations. But people between the ages of 40 and 65 saw no measurable benefit, according to the analysis of medical records.

The study has limitations due to its design, which compiled data from a large Israeli health system rather than enrolling patients in a randomized study with a control group—the gold-standard for medical research. The findings reflect the changing nature of the pandemic, in which the vast majority of people already have some protection against the virus due to vaccination or prior infection. For younger adults, in particular, that greatly reduces their risks of severe COVID-19 complications.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recently estimated that 95% of Americans 16 and older have acquired some level of immunity against the virus.

“Paxlovid will remain important for people at the highest risk of severe COVID-19, such as seniors and those with compromised immune systems,” said Dr. David Boulware, a University of Minnesota researcher and physician, who was not involved in the study. “But for the vast majority of Americans who are now eligible, this really doesn’t have a lot of benefit.”

A spokesman for Pfizer declined to comment on the results, which were published in the New England Journal of Medicine.

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration authorized Paxlovid late last year for adults and children 12 and older who are considered high risk due to conditions like obesity, diabetes and heart disease.

More than 42% of U.S. adults are considered obese, representing 138 million Americans, according to the CDC. At the time of the FDA decision there were no options for treating COVID-19 at home, and Paxlovid was considered critical to curbing hospitalizations and deaths during the pandemic’s second winter surge.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Business Briefs Auto parts manufacturer accused of using child labor

**MONTGOMERY, Ala. (AP)—**Federal officials this week accused a Korean-owned auto parts company that supplies Hyundai and Kia of violating federal child labor laws at an Alabama factory. The U.S. Department of Labor filed a federal lawsuit Monday in Montgomery accusing SL Alabama of hiring workers under age 16 at its Alexander City factory. The lawsuit was accompanied by a proposed settlement. A lawyer for the company signed the consent decree in which the company agreed to not hire underage workers, verify the ages of workers hired through a staffing agency and to fire or discipline any managers aware of the use of underage workers. A federal judge has not yet signed off on the agreement. The company’s website says the factory employs about 650 people and is a large manufacturer of headlights, rear combination lights and side mirrors for Hyundai and Kia.

State Farm subsidiary to pay \$100M for false Katrina claims

**GULFPORT, Miss. (AP)—**State Farm Fire and Casualty Co., a subsidiary of State Farm Insurance, has agreed to pay the federal government \$100 million in restitution over its alleged mishandling of flood insurance claims after Hurricane Katrina. The settlement marks the conclusion of legal proceedings that began more than

16 years ago when two whistleblowers filed a lawsuit against the Illinois-based insurance company. State Farm also agreed to dismiss counterclaims it filed against the whistleblowers. The company had alleged that the whistleblowers breached their employment agreements and violated other laws by taking company documents while working as independent adjusters. The settlement was reached on July 20 and reported Wednesday by the Sun Herald.

Cosmetics giant Sephora settles customer data privacy suit

**SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP)—**Sephora Inc., one of the world’s largest cosmetics retailers, has settled a lawsuit claiming that the company sold customer information without proper notice in violation of the California’s landmark consumer privacy law, state Attorney General Rob Bonta said Wednesday. Sephora failed to tell customers that it was selling their personal information, failed to allow customers to opt out of that sale, and didn’t fix the problem within 30 days as required by the law, even after it was notified of the violation, state officials said. The company agreed to pay \$1.2 million and immediately correct the problem under the settlement, the state’s first such enforcement action under the California Consumer Privacy Act, according to Bonta. Sephora said it is already complying with the state law after cooperating with Bonta’s office. “Data is power, and these days everyone wants it,” Bonta said.

**MICHAEL N. EVANGELISTA, ESQ. (CNMI Bar No. F0364)**  
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*Attorney for Plaintiff*

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

BANK OF SAIPAN, :  
Plaintiff, :  
-v- : **Civil Action**  
BYUNG DEUK LEE : **No. 20-0001**  
d.b.a LC’S BUILDING RENTAL, SANG HUN LEE, :  
LC RENTALCOMPANY, LLC., and KOOM NYE KIM : **NOTICE OF AUCTION ON LEASE HOLD**  
a.k.a KOOM NYE LEE : **OF MORTGAGED PROPERTY**  
Defendants. :

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that under and by virtue of the judgment dated May 18, 2022, made and entered in the above entitled action by the Superior Court of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, to satisfy the amount found and adjudged due Plaintiff from Defendants, the court-approved auctioneer, Mr. Richard S. Villagomez, will sell at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the 21st day of September, at 11 a.m., at the Law Offices of Michael N. Evangelista, LLC., 2nd Floor, D’Torres Building, Middle Road, Garapan, Saipan, the remaining **leasehold interest** to the premises and real estate, lying and being on Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, described further as follows:

**Lot 002 D 31, Garapan, Saipan, (originally Lot 1, Block 16), as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 002 D 00, the original of which was recorded on September 28, 1970 as Document No. 505 at Land Registry, Saipan.**

Terms and Conditions of Sale.

- 1. Rights and duties of Auctioneer.** Consistent with the custom and usage and applicable laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands governing auction sales with reserve, the auctioneer shall have the following rights and duties in conducting the auction sale:
    - a) withdraw the property listed for sale in the public announcement before sale or before a bid for such property is accepted.
    - b) to adjourn the sale without notice at any time before any specific property is sold, without incurring any liability whatsoever thereby; and
    - c) to reject any and all bids.
  - 2. Bids.** Tentative bids may be submitted in advance for the property listed in the notice. Such bids shall not be binding. The highest of such bids will automatically be considered the opening bid for the property, provided it is acceptable as the minimum starting bid to the Bank of Saipan. Bids made in advance must be in writing and addressed to Michael N. Evangelista, Attorney-at-Law, 2nd Floor, D’Torres Building, Middle Road, Garapan, Saipan, P.O. Box 504340 CK Saipan, MP 96950 or Email: mnevangelista8@gmail.com.
  - 3. Deposit and Payment.** A non-refundable guarantee deposit of ten percent (10%) of the purchase price must be paid on the day of the auction sale. The remaining balance will be due within ten (10) days of the auction sale by the winning bidder, no later than 4:00 p.m. on that date, by payment to the Law Offices of Michael Norita Evangelista, LLC. The remaining balance shall be due within ten (10) calendar days from the auction sale. If the tenth calendar day falls on a weekend, then the balance shall be due that Monday after the tenth calendar day. **All payments must be made by cash, cashier’s check, or money order.** Failure to make payment of the remaining balance within ten (10) days will result in forfeiture by the buyer of the 10% deposit, and any and all of the buyer’s rights, title and interest in the property will revert to Bank of Saipan.
  - 4. Change of Terms.** Auctioneer and Bank of Saipan reserve the right to change any of the terms of conduct and enforcement of sale by announcement, written or oral, made before the auction sale or at the commencement thereof, and such change or changes, by virtue of this clause shall be binding on any buyer by constructive notice.
  - 5. Inspection and No Warranty.** Bidders are cautioned to inspect the title and property. Contact the Law Offices of Michael N. Evangelista, LLC., for scheduled viewing and inspection times. The interests of the property are being sold “AS IS” and without warranty. Failure to inspect the real property will not constitute a ground for any claim, adjustment or rescission by any buyer.
- DATED this 25th day of August, 2022.

LAW OFFICES OF MICHAEL NORITA EVANGELISTA, LLC.

/s/  
Michael N. Evangelista, Esq. (Bar No. 0364)  
Attorney for Plaintiff



# Nation

## Memo sheds light on decision to clear Trump in Russia probe

WASHINGTON (AP)—Justice Department officials who evaluated then-President Donald Trump's actions during the Russia investigation concluded that nothing he did, including firing the FBI director, rose to the level of obstruction of justice and that there was no precedent for a prosecution, according to a memo released Wednesday.

The nine-page memo, prepared for then-Attorney General William Barr by a pair of senior Justice Department officials, offered a legal analysis on whether Trump had criminally obstructed the investigation into potential ties between Russia and his 2016 presidential campaign. Barr agreed with the conclusions of the March 24, 2019, memo and announced that same day that he had concluded that Trump's conduct did not break the law.

Though the decision to clear Trump of obstruction has been well-documented, the newly disclosed memo offers additional details about how two of the department's senior-most leaders arrived at that conclusion. The department's decision was notable because special counsel Robert Mueller, who led the Russia investigation, declined in his 448-page report to decide whether Trump had obstructed justice but pointedly did not absolve him either.

The Mueller report scrutinized 10 instances in which



Then-Attorney General William Barr speaks during a news conference, Dec. 21, 2020, at the Justice Department in Washington. AP

Trump lashed out or otherwise injected himself into the Russia investigation. Those include his May 2017 firing of then-FBI director James Comey; his request to Comey three months earlier to drop an investigation into his administration's national security adviser Michael Flynn; and his subsequent efforts to have Mueller fired.

In their memo, the two of-

ficials, Edward O'Callaghan and Steven Engel, asserted that none of those acts amount to criminal obstruction of justice and said evidence suggested that Trump took the steps he did "not for an illegal purpose" but because he believed the investigation was politically motivated and hampering his ability to govern.

In the case of Comey's firing, for instance, they wrote

that the "driving force" was anger over Comey's refusal to publicly declare that the FBI was not investigating Trump himself rather than an effort by Trump to derail the

investigation.

And in other instances, they said, none of Trump's requests or directives to "change the supervision of the investigation" — including telling his

White House counsel to engineer Mueller's firing — was ever actually carried out.

"After the President provided his direction, in each instance, the orders were not carried out," the memo states. "Of course, it is true that an act may constitute an attempt or an endeavor, even if unsuccessful. But the facts that the President could have given these directions himself, and did not remove any subordinate for failing to convey his directions, weigh against finding an intent to obstruct justice."

They argued that the facts in the Trump investigation did not match up with any other prior obstruction prosecutions. Most of the obstruction cases cited by Mueller, they said, involved instances in which there was an inherently wrongful effort to hide or destroy evidence or to thwart the investigation of an underlying crime. Those factors do not exist here, they wrote.

"The Report identifies no obstruction case that the Department has pursued under remotely similar circumstances, and we have not identified any either," the lawyers wrote, referring to Mueller's report.

## Idaho can't enforce abortion ban in medical emergencies

By REBECCA BOONE  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

A federal judge in Idaho has barred the state from enforcing a strict abortion ban in medical emergencies over concerns that it violates a federal law on emergency care.

The ruling Wednesday evening came after a federal judge this week in Texas made the opposite call, barring the federal government from enforcing a legal interpretation of the Emergency Medical Treatment and Labor Act that would require Texas hospitals to provide abortion services if the health or life of the mother is at risk.

In Idaho, the ban makes performing an abortion in any "clinically diagnosable pregnancy" a felony punishable by up to five years in prison. Much of Idaho's law will still go into effect Thursday, but U.S. District Judge B. Lynn Winmill ruled Wednesday the state cannot prosecute anyone who is performing an abortion in an emergency medical situation.

That's because abortions in those cases appear to fall under a federal health care law requiring Medicare-funded hospitals to provide "stabilizing treatment" to patients, Winmill said.

That includes cases when the health of a pregnant patient is in serious jeopardy, when continuing the pregnancy could result in a serious impairment to a person's bodily functions, or a serious dysfunction of any bodily organ or part.

The pause on enforcement in Idaho will continue until a lawsuit challenging the ban is resolved, the judge said in the written ruling.

The U.S. Department of Justice sued the Republican-led state of Idaho earlier this month, saying the abortion ban set to take effect on Thursday violates the federal Emergency Medical Treatment and Labor (EMTALA) Act. Idaho's law criminalizes all abortions in "clinically diagnosable pregnancies," but allows physicians to defend

themselves in court by arguing the procedure was necessary to avert the death of the mother.

Idaho Attorney General's spokesman Scott Graf said his office would not comment on the ruling because the case is still working its way through the courts.

Winmill said the case wasn't about abortion rights but about whether state or federal law takes precedence in this situation. The judge in the Idaho case said it was clear federal law did.

Winmill said the Idaho law would pose a dilemma for a doctor who felt they had to, under "EMTALA obligations," perform an abortion to save the life of the mother even though they are banned under state law.

"At its core, the Supremacy Clause says state law must yield to federal law when it's impossible to comply with both. And that's all this case is about," Winmill wrote. "It's not about the bygone constitutional right to an abortion."

## Uvalde school board fires police chief after mass shooting

UVALDE, Texas (AP)—The Uvalde school district fired police chief Pete Arredondo on Wednesday under mounting pressure in the grieving Texas town to punish officers over letting a gunman at Robb Elementary School remain in a fourth-grade classroom for more than an hour with an AR-15 style rifle as 19 children and two teachers were killed.

In a unanimous vote, the Uvalde Consolidated Independent School District's board of trustees fired Arredondo in an auditorium of parents and survivors of the May 24 massacre. Arredondo, who did not attend the meeting, becomes the first officer to lose his job following one of the deadliest classroom shootings in U.S. history.

His ouster came three months to the day after the tragedy, and less than two weeks before students return to school in Uvalde, where some children remain too scared or scarred to go back inside a classroom.

Cheers from the crowd followed the vote, and some parents walked out of an auditorium in tears. Outside, several Uvalde residents called for other officers to be

held accountable.

"Coward!" some in the audience yelled as the meeting got underway.

Arredondo, who has been on leave from the district since June 22, has come under the most intense scrutiny of the nearly 400 officers who rushed to school but waited more than 70 minutes to confront the 18-year-old gunman in a fourth-grade classroom.

Most notably, Arredondo was criticized for not ordering officers to act sooner. Col. Steve McCraw, director of the Texas Department of Public Safety, has said Arredondo was in charge of the law enforcement response to the attack.

Minutes before the meeting of the Uvalde school board got underway, Arredondo's attorney released a scathing 4,500-word letter that amounted to the police chief's fullest defense to date of his actions. Over 17 defendant pages, Arredondo is not a fumbling school police chief who a damning state investigation blamed for not taking command and wasted time by looking for keys to a likely unlocked door, but a brave officer whose level-headed decisions saved the lives of

other students.

It alleges that Arredondo warned the district about a variety of security issues in the schools a year before the shooting and asserted he wasn't in charge of the scene. The letter also accused Uvalde school officials of putting his safety at risk by not letting him carry a weapon to the school board meeting if he were to attend, citing "legitimate risks of harm to the public and to Chief Arredondo."

"Chief Arredondo is a leader and a courageous officer who with all of the other law enforcement officers who responded to the scene, should be celebrated for the lives saved, instead of vilified for those they couldn't reach in time," George Hyde wrote.

Following the vote, Hyde's office did not immediately return a request for comment.

Uvalde school officials have been under mounting pressure from victims' families and members of the community, many of whom have called for Arredondo's termination. Superintendent Hal Harrell had first moved to fire Arredondo in July but postponed the decision at the request of the police chief's attorney.



# Asia

## Thai PM suspended while court mulls if he defied term limits

**BANGKOK** (AP)—Thailand's Constitutional Court suspended the prime minister from his duties on Wednesday while it decides whether the man who led a military coup in 2014 has violated the country's term limits, potentially opening a new chapter of turmoil in the nation's troubled politics.

Prime Minister Prayuth Chan-ocha's removal is likely to only be temporary since the court has generally ruled in the government's favor in a slew of political cases. Any decision to allow the general to stay on risks invigorating a protest movement that has long sought to oust him and re-opening deep fissures in Thailand, which has been rocked by repeated bursts of political chaos since a coup toppled then-Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra in 2006.

Since then, Thaksin, a telecoms billionaire whose populist appeal threatened the traditional power structure, has remained at the center of the country's politics, as his supporters and opponents fought for power both at the ballot box and in the streets, sometimes violently.

The 2014 takeover ousted his sister from power. Deputy Prime Minister Prawit Wongsuwan, a close political ally of Prayuth and part of the same military clique that staged the coup, will take over as acting prime minister, a spokesman



Thailand's Prime Minister Prayuth Chan-ocha casts his vote at a polling station in Bangkok, Thailand, Sunday, March 24, 2019, during the nation's first general election since the military seized power in a 2014 coup.

AP

for the prime minister's office said Wednesday. Anucha Burapachaisri added that Prayuth would respect the court's decision and called on others to do the same. But those who want Prayuth gone don't want Prawit in power either. "No Prayuth. No Prawit. No military coup government," a

leading protest group said in a statement after the court decision Wednesday.

The group known as Ratsadon, or The People, issued a new call for protests, but only a small number came in response. Prayuth's detractors contend he has violated a law that limits prime min-

isters to eight years in power — a threshold they say he hit Tuesday since he officially became prime minister on Aug. 24, 2014. But his supporters contend his term should be counted from when the current constitution, which contains

the term-limit provision, came into effect in 2017. Another interpretation would start the clock in 2019, following the election. The case — in which the court is deciding whether a coup-leader has stayed in power too long — highlighted

## PH inmates protest on prison roof over food, warden

**MANILA, Philippines** (AP)—About 100 inmates in an overcrowded jail climbed atop the roof of a prison building in the central Philippines and noisily protested with raised fists and placards, saying they were not being fed well and demanding the removal of the jail warden, who was immediately suspended, jail officials said Thursday.

The inmates peacefully dispersed after the Wednesday morning protest and were brought back to their cells in the provincial district jail compound in Pototan town in Iloilo province, and they will face an investigation and possible disciplinary action, officials said. Pictures of the rare protest by inmates, who massed on the roof of a building facing a jail gate, where some journalists later gathered, were posted on Facebook and quickly drew attention in a country with some of the world's most congested prisons. One of their placards read: "We're hungry, warden get out."

"They really got attention," Bureau of Jail Management and Penology spokesman Xavier Solda told The Associ-

ated Press, adding that the inmates, who included suspected communist guerrillas and drug offenders, sneaked out of morning prayers and physical exercise under the sun and used a ledge to climb up onto the roof in a secretly planned protest action. A handwritten note thrown by the inmates accused jail authorities of serving them inadequate meals and of seizing food brought by relatives to force them to buy meals at a jail food outlet. Glass shards were found in rice rations at one point and rotten fish was served at another time, the note said.

But jail officials denied the allegations that appeared in local news reports, saying the inmates were served three proper meals a day and no complaints were aired until the prison protest. Solda said a standard budget of 70 pesos (\$1.25) is allotted for the daily meals of each of the more than 1,100 inmates in the Iloilo jail, including the costs of cooking gas, and added that officials were always looking for ways to improve conditions in nearly 500 jails across the country. "We will not dismiss

Thailand's particular political culture: Often the soldiers who overthrow elected leaders then try to legitimize their rule and defuse opposition by holding elections and abiding by constitutional restrictions. For instance, while Prayuth initially came to power in a coup, he won the job legally after a general election in 2019. By a vote of 5 to 4 on Wednesday, the court agreed to suspend the prime minister from his duties while it considers a petition from opposition lawmakers.

The court's announcement said Prayuth must submit his defense within 15 days of receiving a copy of the complaint, but it did not say when it would rule. He will remain in his other post of defense minister, according to Anucha, the spokesman. Polls show Prayuth's popularity is at a low ebb, with voters blaming him for mishandling the economy and botching Thailand's response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

In 2020, tens of thousands of people took to the streets to demand that Prayuth and his Cabinet resign, while also calling for the constitution to be amended and the monarchy to be reformed. Several confrontations between the student-driven protest movement and authorities became violent.

their concerns just because they're PDLs," Solda said, using the acronym for "persons deprived of liberty" to refer to the inmates. "If their concern is food, then definitely we will look into this and if there's a problem, we will look for solutions."

The jail warden the inmates complained about was temporarily relieved for an investigation and replaced with an officer who recently won an award as one of the country's best jail administrators and would be acceptable to the inmates, he said. Some of the inmates had opposed their transfer to a new and larger prison building, where the roof protest was held, from an old and congested detention facility apparently due to stricter security, Solda said. Jails in the Philippines currently are crammed nearly four times their capacity with a congestion rate of 390%, which is an improvement from over 600% some years ago, he said, adding that officials were continuing a program to build more detention facilities to ease the congestion.

### ASIAN BRIEFS

#### Asian Briefs Tropical storm Ma-on heads to China after hitting HK

**HONG KONG** (AP)—A tropical storm was forecast to make landfall in southern China later Thursday after bringing rain and stiff winds to Hong Kong overnight as it passed to the south of the Asian financial center. China's National Meteorological Center said Tropical Storm Ma-on was heading northwest at 30 kilometers (19 miles) per hour and expected to reach the coast of Guangdong province about noon and then weaken as it moves inland toward the Guangxi region, Yunnan province and northern Vietnam. The Hong Kong government said that one person had been injured and reports of flooding and a fallen tree had been received. About 140 people had sought refuge in temporary shelters set up in the city, a government news release said. Schools were closed for at least the morning.

#### Japan police chief to resign over Abe shooting death

**TOKYO** (AP)—Japan's national police chief on Thursday said he will resign to take responsibility over the fatal shooting of former Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe at a campaign speech last month. National Police Agency Chief Itaru Nakamura's announcement came as his agency released a report on how it failed to save Abe's life on July 8 when he was assassinated in Nara in western Japan. The police re-

port found holes in Abe's police protection that allowed the alleged attacker to shoot him from behind. Nakamura did not say when his resignation would be official. The alleged gunman, Tetsuya Yamagami, was arrested at the scene and is currently under mental evaluation until late November. Yamagami told police that he targeted Abe because of the former leader's link to the Unification Church, which he hated. Abe's family paid tribute to him in a private ritual Buddhist ritual Thursday marking the 49th day of his assassination.

#### India fires 3 military officers for Pakistan missile misfire

**NEW DELHI** (AP)—India's air force said Tuesday that three military officers have been dismissed for accidentally firing an unarmed missile into rival Pakistan in March. A formal inquiry found that "deviation from the Standard Operating Procedures by three officers" led to the BrahMos cruise missile being fired into Pakistan, the air force said in a statement. The missile launched March 9 landed in Pakistan's eastern Punjab province and damaged a wall in a residential area. No deaths or injuries were reported. Pakistan's military at the time said it tracked the missile from its launch and during its more than three-minute-long flight inside Islamabad's airspace. Pakistani officials demanded an explanation from India, criticizing the launch as a "flagrant violation" that violated the country's airspace.



## World

## 22 reported killed in Independence Day attack in Ukraine

**KYIV, Ukraine (AP)**—Russian forces Wednesday launched a rocket attack on a Ukrainian train station on the embattled country's Independence Day, killing 22 people, President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said after warning for days that Moscow might attempt "something particularly cruel" this week.

The lethal attack took place in Chaplyne, a town of about 3,500 people in the central Dnipropetrovsk region, Ukrainian news agencies quoted Zelenskyy as telling the U.N. Security Council via video. The president's office also reported that an 11-year-old child was killed by rocket fire earlier in the day in the settlement.

"Chaplyne is our pain today," Zelenskyy said in his nightly video address to the nation.

At one point, Zelenskyy put the number of wounded at about 50. The deputy head of Zelenskyy's office later said 22 people were wounded in the attack, which hit five passenger rail cars.

Ukraine had been bracing for especially heavy attacks around the national holiday that commemorates Ukraine's declaration of independence from the Soviet Union in 1991. Wednesday also marked the six-month point in the war.

Days ahead of Independence Day, Kyiv authorities banned large gatherings in the capital through Thursday for fear of missile strikes.

Residents of Kyiv, which has been largely spared in recent months, woke up Wednesday to air raid sirens, but no immediate strikes followed. As the day wore on, Russian bombardments were reported in the country's east,



People walk around destroyed Russian military vehicles installed in downtown Kyiv, Ukraine, Wednesday, Aug. 24, 2022.

AP

west and center, with the most serious attack apparently at the train station.

Outgoing British Prime Minister Boris Johnson marked the holiday with a visit to Kyiv—his third since the war broke out—and other European leaders used the occasion to pledge unwavering support for Ukraine, locked in a battle that was widely expected to be a lightning conquest by Moscow but has turned into a grinding war of attrition. U.S. President Joe Biden announced a new military aid package of nearly \$3 billion to help Ukrainian forces fight for years to come.

Over the weekend, Zelenskyy cautioned that Russia "may try to do something

particularly nasty, something particularly cruel" this week. He repeated the warnings ahead of the train station attack, saying, "Russian provocations and brutal strikes are a possibility."

Nevertheless, a festive atmosphere prevailed during the day at Kyiv's Maidan square as thousands of residents posed for pictures next to burned-out Russian tanks put on display. Folk singers set up, and many revelers — ignoring the sirens—were out and about in traditionally embroidered dresses and shirts.

Others were fearful. "I can't sleep at night because of what I see and hear about what is being done in Ukraine," said a retiree who gave only her first name, Tety-

ana, her voice shaking with emotion. "This is not a war. It is the destruction of the Ukrainian people."

In a holiday message to the country, Zelenskyy exulted over Ukraine's success in fending off Moscow's forces since the invasion, saying: "On Feb. 24, we were told: You have no chance. On Aug. 24, we say: Happy Independence Day, Ukraine!"

Britain's Johnson urged Western allies to stand by Ukraine through the winter.

"This is not the time to put forward flimsy negotiating proposals," he said. "You can't negotiate with a bear when it's eating your leg or with a street robber when he has you pinned to the floor."

A car bombing outside

Moscow that killed the 29-year-old daughter of right-wing Russian political theorist Alexander Dugin on Saturday also heightened fears that Russia might intensify attacks on Ukraine this week. Russian

officials have blamed Ukraine for the death of Darya Dugina, a pro-Kremlin TV commentator. Ukraine has denied any involvement.

Russian President Vladimir Putin's forces have encountered unexpectedly stiff Ukrainian resistance in their invasion and abandoned their effort to storm the capital in the spring. The fighting has turned into a slog that has reduced neighborhoods to rubble and sent shock waves through the world economy.

Russian Defense Minister Sergei Shoigu, speaking Wednesday at a meeting of his counterparts from a security organization dominated by Russia and China, claimed the slow pace of Moscow's military action was due to what he said was an effort to spare civilians.

Russian forces have repeatedly targeted civilian areas in cities, including hospitals and a Mariupol theater where hundreds of people were taking shelter.

But Shoigu said Russia is carrying out strikes with precision weapons against Ukrainian military targets, and "everything is done to avoid civilian casualties."

## US, Iran inch closer to nuke deal but high hurdles remain

**WASHINGTON (AP)**—The Biden administration is expected to weigh in this week on Iran's latest offer to resume its compliance with the 2015 Iran nuclear deal, but neither side is offering a definitive path to revive the agreement, which has been on life-support since former President Donald Trump withdrew from it in 2018.

U.S. officials say they expect to respond to Iran's comments on a European draft proposal as early as Wednesday, after which there is expected to be another exchange of technical details followed by a meeting of the joint commission that oversees the deal. The new developments, including stepped-up public messaging campaigns by both Tehran and Washington, suggest that an agreement could be near.

Despite the forward movement, numerous hurdles remain. And key sticking points could still unravel efforts to bring back the 2015 deal under which Iran received billions of dollars in sanctions relief in exchange

for curbs on its nuclear program intended to prevent it from developing an atomic weapon.

Even U.S. supporters of an agreement are no longer referring to the "longer and stronger" deal that they had initially set out to win when indirect negotiations with Iran began last spring. And, on the Iranian side, demands for greater U.S. sanctions relief than the administration appears willing or able to promise could undercut the push to revive the agreement.

In Washington, the Biden administration faces considerable political opposition to returning to the 2015 deal from both Democrats and Republicans in Congress who remain unconvinced that it is in U.S. national security interests.

"I intend to systematically fight the implementation of this catastrophic deal, and will work with my colleagues to ensure that it is blocked and eventually reversed in January 2025," said Republican Sen. Ted Cruz of Texas.

## UK to use lower dose of monkeypox vaccine to stretch supply

**LONDON (AP)**—British health authorities will begin offering eligible people just a fraction of the normal monkeypox vaccine dose to stretch supplies by about five times, in line with similar decisions to extend available doses in Europe and the U.S.

In a statement Monday, Britain's Health Security Agency said patients at clinics in Manchester and London would soon get just one fifth the regular monkeypox vaccine dose as part of ongoing research, citing earlier work suggesting the smaller dose provided as effective an immune response as a full dose.

Last week, the European Medicines Agency authorized

the move for its 27 members across the continent, echoing the decision made by U.S. regulators earlier this month.

"Adopting this tried and tested technique will help to maximize the reach of our remaining stock," said Dr. Mary Ramsay, head of immunization at Britain's Health Security Agency. She said the lowered doses would enable health workers to vaccinate "many more thousands of people."

Last week, British officials said there were early signs the monkeypox outbreak is slowing and that case numbers are declining. Nearly 3,200 cases have been reported in the U.K. since May, with 99% of infec-

tions among men who are gay, bisexual or have sex with other men. About 70% of cases are in London.

As of last week, U.K. authorities said more than 35,000 vaccines had been administered primarily to men who have sex with men, their close contacts, and health workers.

Globally, the supply of monkeypox vaccines is extremely limited. There is only one supplier — Denmark's Bavarian Nordic — and most doses have already been bought by the U.S., Canada, Europe and other rich countries.

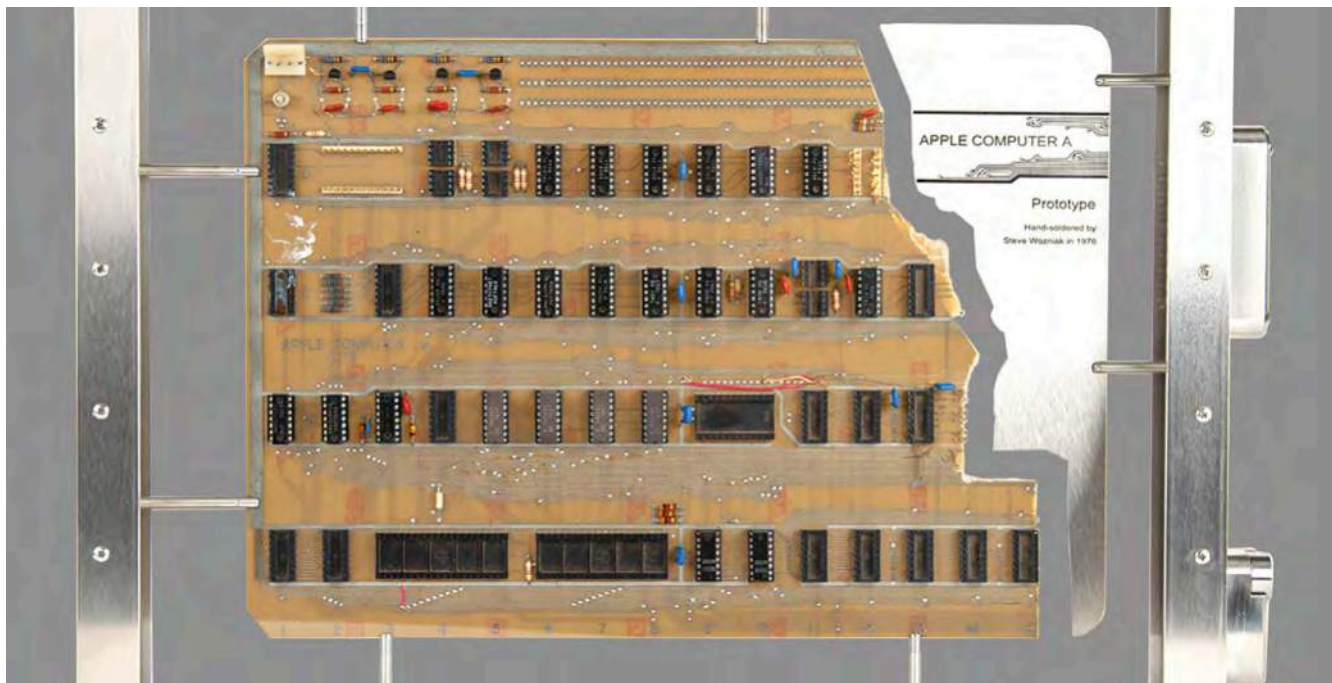
Bavarian Nordic estimated its production capacity for this year was about 30 million doses. No monkeypox vaccines

have so far been allotted to Africa, which has reported more than 70 suspected deaths, the highest number anywhere.

To date, more than 41,000 cases of monkeypox have appeared worldwide in 94 countries. The World Health Organization and other health agencies do not recommend mass vaccination, but have advised countries to improve their monkeypox surveillance, testing and encouraged other measures to slow the disease's spread.

WHO has recommended that men at high risk of the disease temporarily consider reducing their number of sex partners or refrain from group or anonymous sex.





This image provided by Boston-based RR Auction, shows an authenticated Apple-1 Computer prototype from the mid-1970s that a Bay Area collector, who wishes to remain anonymous, made the winning \$677,196 bid on Thursday, Aug. 18, 2022. AP

## Jobs' Apple-1 computer prototype auctioned for nearly \$7000,000

**BOSTON (AP)**—An authenticated Apple-1 Computer prototype from the mid-1970s has sold at auction for nearly \$700,000.

The prototype was used by

Apple co-founder Steve Jobs in 1976 to demonstrate the Apple-1 to Paul Terrell, owner of The Byte Shop in Mountain View, California, one of the first personal computer stores

## Our first steps? Fossil could boost case for earliest ancestor

**NEW YORK (AP)**—Twenty years ago, scientists discovered a 7-million-year-old skull that they concluded belonged to a creature who walked upright and was our earliest known ancestor. Not everyone was convinced. Now, the researchers are back with more evidence they say strengthens their case.

Their new study published Wednesday analyzed arm and leg fossils found near the skull in Africa, looking for signs of walking on two feet instead of on all fours. When early humans started walking upright, it marked a key moment in our split away from apes.

In the paper in the journal *Nature*, researchers again place the creature just on the human side of that evolutionary divide. The fossil species, named *Sahelanthropus tchadensis*, walked upright while still being able to climb around in trees, they reported.

The species has been dated to around 7 million years ago, which makes it the oldest known human ancestor, by a long shot. That's about a million years older than other early known hominins.

But it's been a source of fierce debate since the fossils were first unearthed in Chad in 2001.

Researchers — also led by scientists at the University of Poitiers in France — initially looked at the fossil creature's skull, teeth and jaw. They argued that the creature must have walked on two feet and held its head upright, based

on the location of the hole in the skull where the spinal cord connects to the brain.

Other experts weren't swayed by the early evidence.

The latest work includes a thighbone that was not linked to *S. tchadensis* at first and went unstudied for years. Other researchers at the French university found the bone in the lab's collection and realized it probably belonged to the fossil species.

Compared to bones from other species, the thighbone matched up better with upright-walking humans than knuckle-walking apes, according to the study.

"There is not one feature. There is just a total pattern of features," co-author Franck Guy said of their analysis at a press briefing.

Still, the debate over the species is likely to continue.

Ashley Hammond, a scientist at the American Museum of Natural History in New York said more research is needed to find the creature's place on the evolutionary tree.

"I'm not fully convinced yet," Hammond said. "This could still also be a fossil ape."

Another researcher at the French university, Roberto Macchiarelli, had previously examined the thighbone and determined the species was probably an ape. Looking at the new study, Macchiarelli said he still doesn't believe the species was a hominin, though it might have walked on two legs at times.

# Science & Technology

in the world, Boston-based RR Auction said in a statement.

A Bay Area collector who wishes to remain anonymous made the winning \$677,196 bid on Thursday, the auctioneer said.

"There is no Apple-1 without this board — it's the holy grail of Steve Jobs and Apple memorabilia," said Bobby Livingston, RR's executive vice president.

The board has been matched to Polaroid photographs taken by Terrell in 1976, showing the prototype in use. It was also examined and authenticated by Apple-1 expert Corey Cohen, whose notarized 13-page report accompanied the sale.

The prototype resided on the Apple Garage property for many years before being given by Jobs to the seller about 30 years ago.

## Message of Appreciation

We, the family of the late

# †Dolores

Sablan Moore

have been blessed with relatives and friends who surrounded us in love, care, and prayer during our Beloved's death, daily masses, lisayu and funeral.

Our poor hearts will forever be comforted by the many expressions of compassion and kindness we received during this most difficult time.

We thank our Lord for all your love and support and ask that He continues to provide us strength, perseverance, and peace.

With sincere gratitude,

*John G. Moore & Children*

*†Felipe Camacho & †Joaquina Cabrera Sablan Family*







This Sept. 2, 2020, photo provided by Francesca Teal shows her wedding ring in Groveland, Mass., that she feared was lost forever when it slipped off her finger at a New Hampshire beach.

# Off The Wall

## Metal-detecting stranger retrieves woman's ring lost in sea

**HAMPTON, N.H. (AP)**—A Massachusetts woman's diamond wedding ring, a family heirloom, is back on her finger after a man with a metal detector responded to her social media plea for help and found it at the bottom of the ocean.

Francesca Teal told The Boston Globe that she was tossing a football with her husband this month at North Beach in Hampton, New Hampshire, when the ring that once belonged to her great-grandmother slipped off her finger.

They couldn't find the ring in the water after hours of searching, the 29-year-old from Groveland said.

Teal posted about the ordeal on Facebook and asked anyone who might frequent the

beach with a metal detector to be on the lookout. Her post was shared thousands of times and got the attention of a man named Lou Asci.

Asci, 60 of Marshfield, put on a wetsuit and headlamp and went into the water searching for the ring with his metal detector. The first two days he went looking, he had no luck.

"I don't take failure all too well," Asci told the newspaper. "I wanted to go back and give it one last shot."

That's when he found the ring buried beneath the sandy

ocean floor, he said. He sent Teal a picture, writing in a message: "Please tell me this is the ring so I can finally get off this beach."

Asci returned the ring to Teal's home, and her husband got on one knee to place it back on her finger.

"I have been so overwhelmed by the kindness of strangers this past week," Teal wrote on Facebook. "It has been so amazing to witness humanity in this positive way & has brought so much faith to myself & others."

### OFFBEAT BRIEFS

#### Monkey business behind 911 call from California zo

**SAN LUIS OBISPO, Calif. (AP)**—Cops usually have a prime suspect. In this case it's a primate suspect. The San Luis Obispo County Sheriff's Office believes it was a little Capuchin monkey that called 911 from a zoo last Saturday night. The call disconnected and dispatchers tried to call and text back but there was no response, so deputies were sent to investigate, the office said in a social media post. The address turned out to be the Zoo to You near Paso Robles, but the deputies found that no one there made the call. They finally deduced that a Capuchin monkey named Route had apparently picked up the zoo's cellphone, which was in a golf cart used to move about the property. "We're told Capuchin monkeys are very inquisitive and will grab anything and everything and just start pushing buttons," the office's post said.

it ran through a hallway with several men chasing it. The men unsuccessfully attempted to capture it with a makeshift lasso — a piece of rope that quickly frayed. After being chased out of the bank offices, the bull was tranquilized by city veterinary employees and taken from the area. Despite the chaotic scene, the bank remained bullish. "No one was injured and no damage was caused," it said in a statement.

#### Poland nabs octogenarian with 5 kilos of heroin in suitcase

**WARSAW, Poland (AP)**—A 81-year-old Danish woman traveling from Africa to Canada was arrested at Warsaw airport on suspicion of illegal possession of heroin worth over \$515,000, officials in Poland said Friday. Customs officers at Frederic Chopin Airport decided to check the woman's luggage Sunday after becoming suspicious of her itinerary and her uneasy behavior. Packages with 5 kilograms (11 pounds) of heroin were discovered under a false suitcase bottom. The woman, traveling from Malawi and Kenya through Doha and Warsaw, denied any wrongdoing and said family members had given her the suitcase with gifts for relatives in Canada, according to Aleksandra Skrzyniarz, a spokeswoman for the prosecutor's office in Warsaw. She was detained for three months and prosecutors have opened an investigation. Under Polish law, she faces up to 15 years in prison for illegal possession of narcotics. Denmark officials confirmed that a Danish citizen was detained in Poland and said the ministry is "providing consular assistance."

## Some like it hot: Eating spicy in China's WWII shelters

**CHONGQING, China (AP)**—The city of Chongqing, dubbed one of China's four "furnace" cities, is known for both soaring temperatures and spicy cuisine — notably its hotpot, a peppery bubbling tabletop broth into which diners dunk bite-size pieces of food to cook and eat.

The inland metropolis on the Yangtze River has the perfect escape to enjoy hotpot, even in what has been a summer of unusually stifling heat: World War II-era air raid shelters, converted into restaurants, where the temperature is naturally cooler. Locals call it "cave hotpot."

Chongqing was the tempo-



Customers eat hotpot in a hotpot restaurant located in a converted WWII-era air raid shelter in southwestern China's Chongqing Municipality, Saturday, Aug. 20, 2022.

rary capital of China during World War II, as a Japanese invasion drove the government out of the then-capital,

Nanjing, and occupied eastern China. Leader Chiang Kai-shek, the military, foreign diplomats and others set up in

what was then a remote city in the southwest.

At the sound of air raid sirens, residents crowded into the often dark shelters dug into the hilly cityscape to protect people and military weapons. Thousands died in the Japanese aerial bombing attacks. Today, the stone arch doorways of the former shelters still dot the city.

Some have become cafes and mahjong parlors and others, restaurants. Red Chinese characters hang over one entrance, its stonework half-hidden by a refrigerated drinks display case and stacked up plastic chairs. The characters read: "Cave Pavilion Hotpot. Founded 1989."

## Boston police boat comes to rescue of stranded groom

**BOSTON (AP)**—Officers with the Boston Police Department's harbor patrol unit are used to helping boaters in distress, but last weekend Officer Joe Matthews came to the rescue of a groom in danger of missing his own wedding.

Patrick Mahoney was scheduled to get married on Thompson Island in the middle of Boston Harbor on Saturday, but the boat that was supposed to ferry him to the island where his bride-to-be was already waiting broke down, police said in a post on their website.

It gets worse. The groomsmen, photographer, DJ and floral arrangements were also

stuck on the mainland.

Enter Matthews, who transported more than a dozen people to the island on his police boat so Mahoney's marriage to Hannah Crawford could go on as scheduled.

"They were there very quickly to get my groomsmen and all of our vendors out here to the island and kind of save the day," Mahoney told The Boston Globe.

Matthews was only too happy to help.

"It was good to get a nice call for a change and help people out," he said. "They seemed happy, and we were happy we could do it. It all worked out."



This photo provided by the Boston Police Dept., shows from left, Patrick Mahoney, Hannah (Crawford) Mahoney and Boston police officer Joe Matthews on the dock at Thompson Island in Boston Harbor on Saturday, Aug. 13, 2022.

#### Freed bull races through Israeli streets into building

**JERUSALEM (AP)**—A bull escaped from its pen early Monday, setting off a panicked scene in the streets of a central Israeli city before entering an office building and evading capture for half an hour as it scampered through the hallways. Bank Leumi said the bull entered its offices in an industrial zone in the city of Lod, near Tel Aviv. Amateur videos showed residents scurrying for safety as the bull roamed the streets. Several cars appear to have been damaged, and the bull nearly gored one man who got too close. Inside the building, the animal slid around the tiled floors as



# Life & Style

## Serena Williams tells Meghan of baby's injury before match

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Serena Williams and Meghan recount challenges they've experienced as working mothers on the Duchess of Sussex's first podcast, including stories of having to work soon after scary incidents involving their children.

Williams, a 23-time Grand Slam champion who said recently "the countdown has begun" to her retirement, recounted on Meghan's "Archetypes" Spotify podcast Tuesday that she played a match at the 2018 French Open after a nearly sleepless night after her daughter, Olympia, broke her wrist.

"I somehow managed to win, but I was so emotionally spent and just like so emotionally drained that it was, it was crazy. And, you know, and

then like every night after that, I just was with her the whole time and was like you're going to be with me," said Williams, who has indicated that her final tournament will be the U.S. Open, which starts in New York next week.

The tennis great and Meghan, who are friends, spoke at length on Tuesday's episode about the challenges of balancing high profile careers in the public eye and motherhood.

"So when you went and played that match the next morning, no one knew what your night had been like the night before. They forgot that human piece of it," Meghan said about Williams' French Open experience.

Meghan recounted an incident during a tour of South



AP  
Serena Williams appears at the Vanity Fair Oscar Party in Beverly Hills, Calif., on March 27, 2022, left, and Meghan, Duchess of Sussex, appears at a service of thanksgiving for the reign of Queen Elizabeth II in London on June 3, 2022.

Africa with her husband, Prince Harry, and their son, Archie, in which a fire broke out in her son's room and the pair had to leave their baby

to continue their official duties. Archie was supposed to be napping in the room at the time, but his nanny had taken him out to get a bite to eat. The

incident left everyone shaken, Meghan said.

She said she wanted to spend time with her son, but she and Harry had to go and do another official engagement.

"The focus ends up being on how it looks instead of how it feels," Meghan said. "And part of the humanizing and the breaking through of these labels and these archetypes and these boxes that we're put into is having some understanding

on the human moments behind the scenes that people might not have any awareness of and to give each other a break.

"Because we did — we had to leave our baby," she said.

Williams, who turns 41 next month, and Meghan spoke about the tennis star's recent announcement about stepping away from tennis. Williams said she discussed it with Prince Harry before revealing her decision publicly.

## Mario Batali settles 2 lawsuits that alleged sexual assault

BOSTON (AP)—Mario Batali has agreed to settle two Massachusetts lawsuits that accused the celebrity chef of sexual assault, attorneys for the women said on Wednesday.

The decision to settle the cases



Batali

comes more than two months after the former Food Network personality was cleared of a criminal charge stemming from accusations by one of the women, who prosecutors alleged aggressively kissed and groped her while taking a selfie at a downtown Boston bar in 2017.

"The matters have been resolved to the satisfaction of all parties. We cannot comment further due to confidentiality obligations," attorneys for the two women, Eric Baum and Matthew Fogelman, said in an emailed statement.

An email seeking comment was sent Wednesday to Batali's attorney.

The women alleged that Batali had sexually assaulted them on separate occasions. The accusations by one of the women led to the only criminal case against the prominent chef and restaurateur at the height of the

#MeToo movement. One woman testified in May about how she felt confused and powerless to do anything to stop Batali at the time.

But Batali was acquitted of indecent assault and battery after a Boston judge agreed with Batali's lawyers that the accuser had credibility issues and that photos suggested the encounter was amicable.

Batali's lawyers portrayed the accuser as a liar who was financially motivated because of her civil lawsuit brought against the chef in 2018.

If convicted, Batali faced up to 2 1/2 years in jail and would have been required to register as a sex offender.

## Defense: Key gov't witness tried to extort R. Kelly

CHICAGO (AP)—Defense lawyers at R. Kelly's child pornography trial in Chicago sought Wednesday to portray a key government witness as a liar and extortionist, contending the man first approached the R&B star in 2001 and demanded that Kelly pay \$1 million or he'd go public with video that could put Kelly in serious legal peril.

Those assertions came during seven hours of often blistering cross-examination of Charles Freeman, a former merchandizing agent for Kelly who testified Tuesday that it was Kelly who first approached him, eventually offering Freeman \$1 million to recover a VHS tape featuring Kelly.

"Your entire relationship with (Kelly) centered around stealing from him and lying to him,"



AP  
Musician R. Kelly leaves the Leighton Criminal Court building in Chicago on June 6, 2019. Kelly's federal trial starts Monday in Chicago.

lead Kelly attorney Jennifer Bonjean, raising her voice, told Freeman Wednesday. Minutes later, she added, "You were part of a shakedown scheme, right?" Freeman shot back, "No!" He

also said, "I am not a thief."

Federal prosecutors charged Kelly with production of child pornography based in part on that recording, which they say shows him sexually abusing a

14-year-old. He and co-defendant Derrel McDavid are also accused of successfully rigging Kelly's 2008 state child pornography trial by threatening witnesses and concealing video evidence.

Freeman's testimony at this trial helps buttress prosecutors' claims that both Kelly and McDavid knew that videos Kelly had lost track of in the early 2000s were incriminating and could lead to his conviction at the 2008 trial.

McDavid's lawyer, Beau Brindley, started the cross-examination Wednesday by pacing, waving grand jury transcripts at Freeman and several times telling the 52-year-old to "be quiet and listen" to his questions as he sought to tear down Freeman's credibility.

## Woman learns truth about fiance after moving in

**DEAR ABBY:** I'm having a hard time deciding what to do about my engagement to my fiance. We met at our old job. Before we got together, he was with someone else, and while he says he didn't leave her for me, I am sure I helped.

I have low self-esteem, so I couldn't understand why he left her for me. But he told me I was lucky he cared about me so much because he could have still been friends with her. I did tell him that I wouldn't care as long as I knew. We finally moved into an apartment together, and he started a new job with an old friend he drinks with.

Since the move, he has become very verbally abusive, and I have developed anxiety and panic attacks. I have also developed a fear of driving. He tells me I need to quit being stupid and to grow up. He doesn't like to talk about problems. He likes to pretend they never happened. If I try to discuss things that upset me, there is always an argument and I'm always in the wrong. When I work late or if I'm not home, he gets upset, drinks and breaks stuff.

He proposed a year into our relationship when things were OK. I'm trying to do anything I can to make this not miserable, but it's not enough. What do you think I should do?

**NOT REALLY HAPPY IN MICHIGAN**

**DEAR NOT REALLY HAPPY:** When problems can't be

discussed, they also can't be resolved. I think it's time to calmly evaluate the status quo and decide if you really want to spend the rest of your life with an insecure, domineering, abusive partner who has a drinking problem. If the answer is no, make other living arrangements. Pack your belongings, inform him the romance is over (do this only when he is sober AND you have a witness) and leave.

If you have any reason to think this charmer may become violent, first call the National Domestic Violence Hotline at 800-799-7233 to put together a safe escape plan. Believe me, you can do better than this.

■■■■■

**DEAR ABBY:** Whenever I'm out early for a medical or dental appointment, early church services, etc., I usually stop at a fast-food drive-through and bring home breakfast. My neighbor is a single mother who works at home due to the pandemic, and I buy something for her and her son and leave it on her porch. I remember times when I was still working and a co-worker would bring in breakfast treats, and how much I enjoyed them.

My wife has told me to stop because, she says, my neighbor will think I'm a "dirty old man." My neighbor and I hardly ever speak except to say hello, and I never give her another thought. What do you think?

**PASSING IT ON IN PENNSYLVANIA**

## DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN  
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at [www.DearAbby.com](http://www.DearAbby.com) or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



**DEAR PASSING:** When you pick up those breakfasts, do you bring something home for your wife as well? If the answer is no, your wife may be insecure about the attention you are paying to this neighbor. From my perspective, what you have been doing is a kindness.

■■■■■

Good advice for everyone — teens to seniors — is in "The Anger in All of Us and How to Deal With It." To order, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Anger Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)







# Kobe Bryant widow awarded \$16M in trial over crash photos

**LOS ANGELES** (AP)—Kobe Bryant's widow was awarded \$16 million as part of a \$31 million jury verdict Wednesday against Los Angeles County for deputies and firefighters sharing grisly photos of the NBA star, his 13-year-old daughter and other victims killed in a 2020 helicopter crash.

The nine jurors unanimously agreed with Vanessa Bryant and her attorneys that the photos invaded her privacy and caused emotional distress. She cried quietly as it was read.

The jury deliberated 4 1/2 hours before reaching the verdict on Kobe Bryant Day, which is celebrated in LA on Aug. 24 because it represents his jersey numbers — 8 and 24 — and is the day after his birthday. He would have turned 44 on Tuesday.

After the verdict, Vanessa Bryant posted a photo on Instagram of herself with her husband and daughter.

"All for you!" the caption read. "I love you! JUSTICE for Kobe and Gigi!"

An attorney for the county declined comment on the verdict outside the courtroom.

The pictures were shared mostly between employees of the LA County sheriff's and fire departments including by some who were playing video games and attending an awards banquet. They were also seen by some of their spouses and in one case by a bartender at a bar where a deputy was drinking.

Vanessa Bryant tearfully testified during the 11-day trial that news of the photos compounded her still-raw grief a month after losing her husband and daughter, and that she still has panic attacks at the thought that they might



Vanessa Bryant, center, Kobe Bryant's widow, leaves a federal courthouse with her daughter, Natalia, left, and soccer player Sydney Leroux in Los Angeles, Wednesday, Aug. 24, 2022.

still be out there.

"I live in fear every day of being on social media and these popping up," she testified.

"I live in fear of my daughters being on social media and these popping up."

Her co-plaintiff Chris Ches-

ter, whose wife and daughter were also among the nine people killed in the crash, was awarded \$15 million.

"We're grateful for a jury and a judge who gave us a fair trial," said Chester's lawyer Jerry Jackson.

Vanessa Bryant's attorneys did not give jurors a dollar amount they thought their client deserved, but Chester's attorney gave them suggested guidelines that would have meant tens of millions for each plaintiff.

Vanessa Bryant and her attorney declined comment outside court Wednesday. Her face was still streaked with tears as she walked past TV cameras and dozens of reporters and climbed into an SUV.

Vanessa Bryant's lawyer Luis Li told jurors that the close-up photos had no official or investigative purpose, and were mere "visual gossip" shared out of a gruesome curiosity.

County attorney J. Mira Hashmall argued during the trial that the photos were a

necessary tool for assessing the situation.

She acknowledged that they should not have been shared with everyone who saw them. But she emphasized that the photos had never appeared publicly, and had never even been seen by the plaintiffs. She said that meant that Sheriff Alex Villanueva and other officials had taken decisive and effective action when they ordered those who had the photos to delete them.

Kobe Bryant, the former Lakers star, five-time NBA champion and member of the Basketball Hall of Fame, was traveling with Gianna and seven others to a youth basketball game when the helicopter they were aboard crashed into hills in Calabasas west of Los Angeles on Jan. 26, 2020.

Federal safety officials blamed pilot error for the crash.

## A year away: USA Basketball ramps up World Cup preparations

**LAS VEGAS** (AP)—There is no roster of players. No schedule for games, either.

USA Basketball hasn't even qualified for next year's World Cup yet, and probably won't be able to clinch one of the 32 spots in that field until November at the earliest.

The countdown is on anyway.

Thursday marks exactly one year until the beginning of the next men's Basketball World Cup, with the first games set to be played on Aug. 25, 2023 at the event that will be hosted by Indonesia, Japan and the Philippines. It's not the Olympics and won't get the same attention, yet is a major priority for the Americans especially since the U.S. finished seventh — the

senior national team's worst showing ever at a major international event — at the most recent World Cup in China three years ago.

"Humility is a powerful tool," USA Basketball CEO Jim Toolsey said when asked what the Americans took away from that finish in China. "And, you know, it doesn't hurt to have that and be reminded of it. Not that we've been arrogant or disrespectful to our opponents, but it's just a reminder that we've got to keep working and not take it for granted."

That work resumes on Thursday in Las Vegas. The Americans, using a roster filled by players who will likely spend the coming season either playing internationally or in the G League, play host to Uruguay to

open the second round of World Cup qualifying.

A win Thursday moves the U.S. closer to qualifying, and a sweep of this two-game window — the Americans play at Colombia on Monday — would likely put them on the brink of clinching a spot. After this window, the next round of qualifying games is in November.

None of the players who will be in uniform on Thursday — names like David Stockton, Mac McClung and Langston Galloway — were there when the Americans finished seventh at the last World Cup. They won't be there with the Americans at the next World Cup, either; those roster spots will be offered to big-name NBA players. But they are the ones tasked with doing the actual qualify-

ing and giving the Americans a chance to erase the disappointment over finishing seventh.

"You never want to feel like you need it," said Sean Ford, the U.S. men's national team director. "But if you don't learn from it, you're really going to take a back seat a little bit. We learned a lot. We're learning a lot because the NBA game has changed over the last seven or eight years, too. There's much more shotmaking. It's just unbelievable, incredible the amount of 3-point shots that are taken, the freedom of movement, the flow of the game. But the international game has stayed the physical way."

Steve Kerr has mastered coaching one of those styles. Now, he'll have to master the other one.

Kerr's Golden State Warriors, the reigning NBA champions — with four titles in the past eight seasons — are the epitome of what Ford talks about when discussing the evolution of the pro game, relying on 3-pointers, movement and spacing to win. Kerr is very familiar with how the international game is different since he was with the U.S. as an assistant under then-coach Gregg Popovich for both of the last two major tournaments; the seventh-place showing in China, then the gold medal at the Tokyo Games last summer.

It was a logical progression for Kerr to take over for Popovich. And the tasks in 2023 and 2024 have been on his mind for some time now, as evidenced by him making a recruiting pitch to Stephen Curry on the night the Warriors won this past season's NBA title.

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# Wright, Braves keep rolling, beat Pirates 14-2 for sweep



PITTSBURGH  
(AP)—Kyle

Wright allowed two hits over seven efficient innings, Matt Olson hit a grand slam that found the Allegheny River and the Atlanta Braves drilled the sloppy Pittsburgh Pirates 14-2 on Wednesday to complete a three-game sweep.

Wright (16-5) struck out eight and walked one to tie Houston's Justin Verlander and the Los Angeles Dodgers' Tony Gonsolin for most victories in the majors. Wright needed just 73 pitches to record 21 outs while trimming his ERA to 2.99.

Atlanta has won 14 of 16 overall to keep pressure on the NL East-leading New York Mets.

The lone highlight for the Pirates came from rookie Oneil Cruz, who ripped the hardest-hit ball since Major League Baseball began measuring exit velocity in 2015. The ball left Cruz's bat at 122.4 mph and slammed into the 21-foot-high Clemente Wall in right field with two outs in the third. He was held to a single.

William Contreras added his 17th home run for Atlanta, bashing a pitch from Mitch Keller (4-10) into the left-field bleachers in the second inning.

**G U A R D I A N S**  
7, PADRES 0

**SAN DIEGO (AP)** — Cal Quantrill shut down his former team through seven brilliant innings, All-Star José Ramírez homered in consecutive at-bats, and rookie Oscar Gonzalez connected again as AL Central-leading Cleveland completed a two-game sweep of San Diego.

Quantrill (10-5) held San Diego scoreless while allowing five hits. The Padres scored only nine runs in a homestand against Washington and Cleveland.

Blake Snell (5-7) was a strike away from getting out of the first inning when Ramirez homered to left-center on an 0-2 pitch. He allowed six runs and eight hits in 3 1/3 innings.

## Rangers 16, Rockies 4

In Denver, Martín Pérez threw six scoreless innings and Nathaniel Lowe homered and drove in five runs as Texas pounded Colorado.

Texas posted its highest-scoring game since 2019 in winning for the fourth time in five games and improving to 6-4 under interim manager Tony Beasley.

Pérez (10-4) allowed four hits and walked one while lowering his ERA to 2.69. He struck out seven to give the first-time All-Star a career-high 139.

José Ureña (2-5) needed



Atlanta Braves' Matt Olson, center, is greeted by Ronald Acuna Jr. (13) after driving him, Austin Riley (27) and Dansby Swanson (7) in with a grand-slam home run during the eighth inning of a baseball game against the Pittsburgh Pirates, Wednesday, Aug. 24, 2022, in Pittsburgh.

60 pitches to get four outs, allowing nine runs, 11 hits and three walks.

## White Sox 5, Orioles 3

In Baltimore, Lucas Giolito pitched impressively into the seventh inning as Chicago beat Baltimore.

Giolito (10-7) allowed one run and four hits in 6 1/3 innings. Kendall Graveman was helped out of a bases-loaded jam in the seventh thanks to third baseman Yoán Moncada, who snagged Jorge Mateo's bouncer down the line and started a slick double play.

The White Sox loaded the bases with one out in the first against Spenser Watkins (4-4), and Gavin Sheets came through with a two-run single.

## Cubs 7, Cardinals 1

In Chicago, Zach McKinstry homered and drove in three runs as Chicago beat NL Central-leading St. Louis.

Rowan Wick (4-6) got five outs for the win, leading a solid performance by the Cubs bullpen.

Lars Nootbaar homered for the Cardinals, and Corey Dickerson went 4 for 4. St. Louis dropped to 17-5 in August.

Miles Mikolas (10-10) allowed five runs, three earned, in 6 2/3 innings.

## Blue Jays 3, Red Sox 2, 10 innings

In Boston, George Springer had three hits, including a 10th-inning double on the first pitch from Boston reliever Ryan Brasier (0-3) that scored automatic runner Jackie Bradley Jr., and To-

ronto beat Boston.

Adam Cimber (10-5) pitched a scoreless ninth, giving up one hit. Jordan Romano worked a scoreless 10th inning, issuing an intentional walk to Rafael Devers before getting his 27th save.

Franchy Cordero homered in the second off José Berrios to put the Red Sox on top 2-0. Phillies 7, Reds 5

In Philadelphia, J.T. Realmuto homered, Rhys Hoskins drove in three runs and Philadelphia beat Cincinnati.

Jean Segura added three hits for the Phillies, who will go for the four-game series sweep on Thursday night. Cristopher Sánchez (2-1) struck out seven in six innings, and David Robertson got three outs for his 18th save.

Kyle Farmer and Stuart Fairchild homered for the Reds.

T.J. Zeuch (0-3) allowed six runs in 2 2/3 innings.

## Rays 4, Angels 3, 11 innings

In St. Petersburg, Fla., Harold Ramirez had a tying RBI double in the 11th inning and scored the winning run on a throwing error to lift Tampa Bay.

It was the fifth consecutive win for the Rays, who came back twice in the extra innings.

Ramirez scored on a throwing error by first baseman Jared Walsh with one out in the 11th after he had doubled off Jaime Barria (2-3) to drive in Jose Siri.

Taylor Ward's double had driven in automatic runner Shohei Ohtani that put the Angels up 3-2 in the top of the 11th.

JT Chargois (1-0) got the win after one inning of relief.

Mike Trout, whose home run in the eighth had driven in the game's first run, hit a two-out ground ball with Walsh on third base to put the Angels up 2-1 in the 10th. Walls tied it 2-2 with a sacrifice fly in the bottom of the 10th.

## Athletics 3, Marlins 2, 10 innings

In Oakland, Calif., Skye Bolt led off the 10th with a sacrifice fly to score automatic runner David MacKinnon and Oakland beat Miami to avoid a three-game sweep.

MacKinnon had advanced to third on a wild pitch by Richard Bleier (2-2).

The Athletics' Cole Irvin struck out 11 in seven scoreless innings, allowing three hits without a walk. He had lost four straight decisions in August.

The Marlins' Jesus Luzardo held Oakland hitless until Jonah Bride singled to open the sixth inning. Chad Pinder drove in two runs with a single later in the sixth.

A.J. Puk (3-1) worked a scoreless 10th for Miami.

## Nationals 3, Mariners 1

In Seattle, Ildemaro Vargas hit a two-run homer in the ninth inning that lifted Washington over Seattle.

Mariners right-hander George Kirby set a major league record by throwing 24 straight strikes to start the game. Fellow Seattle rookie Julio Rodriguez hit his 20th homer, tying the game 1-1 in the eighth and becoming the fourth rookie in big league

history with 20 home runs and 20 stolen bases in the same season.

Vargas homered with two outs off Paul Sewald (3-4).

Kyle Finnegan (5-2) allowed a couple of baserunners in the ninth before retiring Cal Raleigh on a flyout.

## Tigers 6, Giants 1

In Detroit, Matt Manning threw six scoreless innings and Detroit scored all six of its runs in the fifth to split a two-game series with San Francisco.

Manning (1-1) allowed five hits, walked none and struck out a career-high eight in his first win since last Sept. 15 against Milwaukee.

Victor Reyes and Willi Castro each drove in two runs while Kody Clemens and Harold Castro each drove in one with two out in the bottom of the fifth. All six runs were charged to Logan Webb (11-7), who was pulled after Harold Castro's single made it 4-0.

## Astros 5, Twins 3

In Houston, Jose Altuve hit a leadoff homer and Trey Mancini added a two-run shot to back up another quality start by Framber Valdez, and Houston held on to hand Minnesota its fifth straight loss.

Valdez (13-4) allowed two hits and one run with eight strikeouts in seven innings for his 21st consecutive quality start. That moved him past Mike Scott (20) for the longest streak in franchise history. It's the longest such streak in the majors

since Jacob deGrom made 26 in a row from May 18, 2018-April 3, 2019.

Down 5-1, Minnesota tried to rally in the ninth. Gio Urshela singled and scored on a double by Luis Arráez that was misplayed for an error by left fielder Mauricio Dubón. Rafael Montero then walked pinch-hitter Nick Gordon before the Twins scored another run when pinch-hitter Jake Cave reached on a grounder to second that Altuve couldn't handle. But Max Kepler lined into a double play and pinch-hitter Gary Sanchez grounded out to end it.

Dylan Bundy (7-6) gave up two runs and three hits in five innings.

## Royals 5, Diamondbacks 3

In Kansas City, Mo. (AP) — Bobby Witt Jr. homered during a five-run rally in the seventh inning, leading Brady Singer and the Kansas City past Arizona.

Diamondbacks starter Zac Gallen extended his shutout streak to 27 1/3 innings, leaving after the sixth with a 1-0 lead. He gave up three hits, walked three and struck out six.

The Royals broke loose in the seventh against the Arizona bullpen, tagging relievers Noe Ramirez (4-4) and Joe Mantiplay for five runs. Kansas City finished with seven hits, snapping an eight-game streak of six hits or fewer.

Christian Walker hit his career-high 30th homer for Arizona, which has dropped four of five.

Singer (7-4) allowed only four hits, including a fifth-inning solo homer to Daulton Varsho, in seven innings. He is 4-1 over his past 10 starts, posting a 2.14 ERA in that span.

## Dodgers 12, Brewers 6

In Los Angeles, Andrew Heaney struck out 10 in his first win in four months, Austin Barnes drove in four runs, and the Los Angeles Dodgers pummeled the Milwaukee Brewers for the second straight game, winning 12-6 on Wednesday night.

The Dodgers took the season series, 4-3, while outscoring the Brewers 22-11 over the three-game series, including a 10-1 rout on Tuesday. Los Angeles has scored 10 or more runs in three of its last four games.

Los Angeles has the best record in baseball (86-37) and leads second-place San Diego by a whopping 19 1/2 games in the NL West, making everything they do lately look easy.



# GM hires give NFL bright spot in diversity, but work remains



**DALLAS (AP)—** Ryan Poles knew pretty quickly he was interested in the path that led to his hiring as general manager of the Chicago Bears, while Dallas Cowboys personnel man Will McClay toiled in arena football before scouting beckoned.

Both credit relationships built along the way for their spots in a promising trend of diversity hiring for the NFL, plagued for years by a poor record in opportunities for minorities in the coaching ranks.

Poles is among six minorities picked to fill the past 12 openings for general managers going back to early 2021, and McClay could have pushed the ratio past 50%. Instead, he has turned down several chances to take that title, choosing to stay as vice president of player personnel for Dallas owner, president and GM Jerry Jones.

Relationships are crucial to maintaining or expanding the roles of minorities in front offices, and the effort is never-ending, said C. Keith Harrison, lead author of the annual NFL Diversity and Inclusion Report.

"People say time is money. Trust is money, and people invest in relationships that they trust," said Harrison, a sports business professor at UCF.



Chicago Bears new NFL football team general manager Ryan Poles speaks during a news conference at Halas Hall in Lake Forest, Ill., Monday, Jan. 31, 2022.

"We have data that when you network and connect, engage with people that are different from you by gender and race, you have a better chance of being what we call upwardly mobile."

McClay says ownership, which is overwhelmingly white in the NFL, has a role in getting to know promising minority candidates in organizations. McClay was head coach of an arena league team owned by Jones' Cowboys before be-

coming a scout, and has been with the club for 20 years.

"Jerry didn't know me until I got to be able to spend time with him, talk to him, him to know how much I knew about football, how much I knew about relationships and trying to get that together," McClay said. "He wouldn't have known that if I didn't get the opportunity."

Poles was about to go into marketing after he was released by the Bears, but took

a job as a graduate assistant at Boston College, his alma mater, instead. Conversations with visiting pro scouts sparked his interest in the personnel side.

The 36-year-old Poles credits former Kansas City GM Scott Pioli for making the advancement of minority candidates a priority.

"He's always taken a lot of pride in making sure that there was a pipeline from scouting assistant to area pro scout to

directors and then doing that the right way," said Poles, who was with the Chiefs for 13 years before joining the Bears in January.

"So I was fortunate to have someone that was very aware of it, and my growth and development happened probably faster because of just mentors that wanted to spend time to develop me as a person and as a personnel person and a leader," Poles said.

Five of the six recent minority additions among GMs are Black: Poles, Washington's Martin Mayhew, Kwesi Adofo-Mensah of Minnesota, Atlanta's Terry Fontenot and Brad Holmes in Detroit. Pittsburgh hired Omar Khan, an Indian American, in May. Overall, eight of the 32 GMs are minorities.

"It's huge progress that's been made," Holmes said. "Hopefully that progress continues."

Fontenot, hired by the Falcons in early 2021 after 18 seasons in New Orleans under longtime GM Mickey Loomis, said the goal should be to get to a point where race doesn't have to be a factor for head coaches or personnel chiefs.

At its recent spring meetings in Atlanta, the league conducted an accelerator program for minorities in coach-

ing and the front office, with two members of the staff from each club participating.

"The league shouldn't have to have accelerator programs," Fontenot said. "We should be able to do that with everyone — not just people that are a certain color, a certain race, a certain sex. We should be inclusive in all of our processes."

While Harrison said he is optimistic about minorities having opportunities in some aspects of management with NFL teams, that feeling doesn't carry over to head coaching.

In a league with 70% of rosters filled by Black players, five head coaches are minorities. In 2011, that number was eight. Whether a better hiring record with GMs can translate to head coaching is a tricky question, Harrison and Poles said.

First, it's difficult to know how much influence a GM will have with an owner, Harrison said, adding that a Black GM in charge of hiring a coach might have stronger ties to white candidates.

"It's hard to oversimplify," Harrison said. "There's only 32 teams. So our sample sizes, they're so small and these positions are so challenging and elite to come by. They're just so competitive."

## TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

### MLB STANDINGS

#### AMERICAN LEAGUE

##### East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
New York	76	48	.613	
Tampa Bay	68	55	.553	7½
Toronto	67	55	.549	8
Baltimore	64	59	.520	11½
Boston	60	64	.484	16

##### Central Division

Cleveland	66	56	.541	
Chicago	63	61	.508	4
Minnesota	62	60	.508	4
Kansas City	51	75	.405	17
Detroit	48	77	.384	19½

##### West Division

Houston	80	45	.640	
Seattle	67	57	.540	12½
Texas	57	67	.460	22½
Los Angeles	52	72	.419	27½
Oakland	46	79	.368	34

#### NATIONAL LEAGUE

##### East Division

New York	79	46	.632	
Atlanta	78	48	.619	1½
Philadelphia	69	55	.556	9½
Miami	54	70	.435	24½
Washington	42	83	.336	37

##### Central Division

St. Louis	71	53	.573	
Milwaukee	65	58	.528	5½
Chicago	54	70	.435	17
Cincinnati	48	74	.393	22
Pittsburgh	47	77	.379	24

##### West Division

Los Angeles	86	37	.699	
San Diego	68	58	.540	19½
San Francisco	61	62	.496	25
Arizona	56	67	.455	30
Colorado	54	71	.432	33

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

## AIKEN

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Then keep that up throughout months and years. Get out of your comfort zone, challenge yourself, and ask questions," he said.

Aiken's training camps are designed as 1 1/2-hour long sessions and focus on all aspects of the game of basketball, from footwork, cardio, layups, shooting, defense, to core training.

"We help develop and improve their full game. With all the different training camps I have had the opportunity to learn from in my professional career, I have come to find that the minor details and skills are the most important to know. That is what I try to focus on through all the drills

and workouts that I put them through," he said.

Aiken said he's been hosting basketball camps to give back to the community and give island players the opportunity to learn from a professional basketball player.

"My main objective with training and hosting these types of camps is to give athletes who are passionate about basketball something I didn't have when I was growing up. I've been so blessed with the opportunities I have worked for and I wanted to be someone to guide them and show them what it takes to get to the next level. Ultimately, I wanted to provide guidance, support and insight to the truth of what it takes to grow in something you put your heart into," he said.

## PICKLEBALL

From Page 24

the community to come out and watch and share in the potluck and bring a dish and lawn chair.

Since July 1, the PFNMI is now up to 70 members and for the "King's Court" tournament they are expecting five players from Guam to participate—Derek Alcorn, Albert and Tomi Kronik, William Josler, and

April Bernabe.

On Sept 4, PFNMI will also be holding a training session at the AMP tennis courts.

PFNMI president Nelson Krum and five others who attended a pro clinic taught by Daniel Moore from Japan will be sharing what they learned with club members.

In addition, Moore will be visiting Saipan tentatively in March 2023 to host a clinic for Saipan players.

The "King's Court" event will also serve as a prelude

Born in Hawaii, the 5'8" Aiken was the only sophomore in 2010 to make the All-Island team (second team) in the Guam IIAAG High School League. In 2011 as a junior, Aiken won the state championship, was honored First Team All-Island, and also came in second in the Slam Dunk Contest held at the Far East Tournament in Japan.

Aiken is also part of the Guam national basketball team that bagged the gold medal at the 2014 Micronesian Games.

Before signing with the Yamaguchi Patriots, Aiken also suited up for the Akita Northern Happinets (2015–2016), Tokyo Cinq Rêves (2016), Five Arrows (2017), and the Saitama Broncos (2019–2021).

to PFNMI's Inaugural Marianas Cup between the CNMI and Guam set for Nov. 5, also at the AMP tennis courts.

Krum founded PFNMI with his wife Donna as Paradise Pickleball Club of Saipan in August 2020 after a hip replacement surgery forced him to switch from tennis to pickleball.

Last year also saw the sports organization become the 67th member of the International Pickleball Federation. It held its first-ever

## QUEENS

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dies to 1-4.

Salalila had a triple, a double, and two RBIs while going 2-3 at-bat to lead Queens of the Diamond, while Allanah Sablan also had two RBIs.

Roxie Saralu led Tokahao Ladies in the loss with two RBIs after going 1-3 from the plate.

### Lady Eagles 16, Kosebaki 15

Lady Eagles won its first game of the season in dramatic fashion after erupting for 13 runs in the final inning to shock Kosebaki.

Pitcher Jennie Scaliem didn't know what hit her as all of a sudden Lady Eagles pelted her with singles

aplenty.

It also didn't help that the rest of her crew had fielding errors that resulted in Kosebaki's monumental collapse.

Kosebaki actually led 11-3 heading into the final inning before the unexpected fireworks display resulted in not only the biggest upset but also the biggest comeback of the season.

Glare Mabel and Angela Santos led the rally with three RBIs each. The latter also went 4-5 at-bat and scored three runs, while the latter went 3-5 at the plate.

Mardina Kaipat hit 2-4 at-bat and had a triple and three RBIs to pace Kosebaki's losing cause.

The win allowed the Lady Eagles to up its record to 1-4, while Kosebaki lost for the second time in five games.

lar venue.

With over three million players, pickleball is arguably the fastest growing sport in the U.S. and its popularity has spread all over the world as pickleball—with the recent recognition of the CNMI—is currently played in 67 countries.

For more information about PFNMI's "King's Court" event, call or text Dr. Nelson Krum at 670-789-8201, or email @ nelsonkrum@msn.com.





Kobe Bryant widow  
awarded \$16M  
in trial over crash  
photos  
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# Saipan Tribune Sports

GM hires give  
NFL bright spot in  
diversity, but work  
remains  
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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

## Aiken: Rollers a talented group

By MARK RABAGO  
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Japanese-American pro hooper Morgan Aiken came out impressed with the NMI Rollers girls 17-and-under team after hosting them in his basketball camp held at the Ballers Gymnasium in Harmon, Guam.

“Led by their coach Marlene Lumabi, they are a talented group of basketball players. Although the training camp was only three days, they competed everyday with so much drive and worked hard throughout the whole session,” said the Yamaguchi Patriots of the B.League’s point guard.

Aiken said in all a total of 10 players—Lumabi and nine NMI Rollers girls 17-and-under players—attended the three-day basketball clinic.

“The plan was to train a larger group, but due to unexpected circumstances, only 10 were able to fly out and

participate this time around. It was still as effective as the initial plan and I hope that the group was able to benefit from the camp.”



Aiken, who attended Saint Paul Christian School in Guam before playing NCAA college basketball for Eastern University in 2013, said

players from the islands have so much talent and potential.

“But alongside talent, discipline and consistency will help get them to the next level. From getting up to train when you’re tired or unmotivated, to blocking out the outside noise so you can focus on yourself.

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### Pickleball to hold ‘King’s Court’ event on Sept. 3

By MARK RABAGO  
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

The Pickleball Federation of the Northern Mariana Islands will hold its “King’s Court” event on Sept. 3 at the American Memorial Park.

A total of 48 players will be suiting up in 12 Pickleball courts for next month’s tournament, which is sponsored by Paradise Dental Spa.

The “King’s Court” tournament will have a unique twist

on the round-robin format and will have matches scheduled from 8am to 10am and 5pm to 7pm.

The king and queen of the “King’s Court” tournament will be crowned at the end of evening play. After the awards, a potluck dinner and a raffle drawing will follow.

Participants should bring a \$20 raffle prize and tickets are sold at \$5 for three raffle tickets.

The PFNMI is welcoming

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MARK RABAGO

A total of 48 players will be suiting up in 12 Pickleball courts for next month’s King’s Court” event.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO  
Yamaguchi Patriots’ Morgan Aiken has played for five teams in Japan’s B. League since making his debut in 2015.

## Queens of the Diamond still unbeaten

By MARK RABAGO  
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR



Queens of the Diamond remained unbeaten after defeating Tokahao Ladies in the women’s division of the 2022 Budweiser Belau Amateur Softball Association League last Sunday at the Dandan Softball Field.

Hits came aplenty in the first inning with Queens of the Diamond taking a 4-3 lead thanks to a double from Rachel Salalila and singles from Kiana Aldan and Bert Camacho.

It was 6-3 after three innings in favor of Queens of the Diamond as Camacho singled in Kiana Camacho and she in turn crossed

home plate on a hit by Allannah Sablan.

Queens of the Diamond would then make it 10-3 with consecutive singles by Koko Laniyo, Koolani Rios, and Destiny Pangelinan.

Tokahao Ladies tucked in three runs in the bottom of the fourth to cut their deficit to four runs, 6-10.

But Bert Camacho would not allow any other Tokahao Ladies to cross home plate

after that and Kiana and Allannah Sablan would score two more runs for good measure.

Queens of the Diamond are now 5-0, while the loss dropped Tokahao Ladies to 1-1.

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MARK RABAGO

Queens of the Diamond’s Allannah Sablan had two RBIs in their win against Tokahao Ladies in the women’s division of the 2022 Budweiser Belau Amateur Softball Association League last Sunday at the Dandan Softball Field.